

Restricted

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Summary: The DunBroch clan and the Viking clan on Berk haven't been on good terms for a long time but what happens when the princess of DunBroch and the Viking clan leader's son meet and become friends? What happens when they start to slowly fall in love? This starts when Hiccup shoots down Toothless.

1. Chapter 1

****A/N:** Hello! This is my first time writing a Brave/HTTYD fan fic so beware. I'm also not good with writing accents but if you have tips, feel free to put them in the comments. I absolutely love this pairing it was just that I needed an idea for a story to put them in. Anyway, let's continue on with the story!**

Chapter 1: Ancient Story

Third Person's P.O.V.

Two clans have been at war for a very long time, the Viking village on Berk and the DunBroch. The two only talk when it comes to trading and the only ones who talk about trading are the two clan leaders. Guards are present from both clans in case things get out of hand.

The war started when the Vikings were looking for a home to settle on. They had been on boats for many months when they came across the highlands where the Scottish had already settled so the Viking leader went to ask the clan leader if they could stay. The clan leader was a nice guy as long as you followed his orders so he divided the island in half, the left side for them and the right for the Vikings. The Vikings were very thankful and he said he would let them stay as long as they stayed in their boundaries. The Vikings agreed and set up to building their village right away. The Vikings and the clan, which they found out was the DunBroch clan, traded every so often and actually became great friends.

It was two months after the Vikings had settled that one greedy old man found out the DunBroches had a lot of gold hidden away in their castle. His name was Mushroom. Mushroom gathered up two other greedy people and told them to break into the castle and get the gold. The two were a little afraid of going over the boundary but Mushroom reminded them of the gold and they forgot the fear. The two Vikings were in the gold room, after sneaking past the sleeping guards, when one tripped and caused a loud clatter that woke the guards. They captured the two Vikings and sent them to the throne room where the clan leader was waiting. He was angry that the Vikings broke their promise and tried to steal his gold. He sent most of his men to attack the Viking village.

During the time when the two greedy Vikings had left, two townsfolk of the DunBroch clan had snuck into the Viking village. They had heard that the Vikings had a lot of fur which would make the two townsfolk very rich if they sold it. They had just gotten to the shed with the fur when two Vikings patrolling the area saw them. The two Vikings snuck up on them and captured them, then took them to the Viking leader. He was also angry and sent most of him and most of his people out to attack the DunBroch leader.

They met up at the boundary line and almost attacked each other but the two leaders ordered them to stop.

"Why are you here, Acair?" the Viking leader asked.

"I'm askin' the same question, Gunnar."

"Two of your people tried to steal our fur," Gunnar growled angrily.

"Well, two of yers tried to steal our gold," Acair growled back, "I set up one rule and ye break it. I want ye and yer people to leave by dawn or we will use force."

There were a lot of gasps on the Vikings' side but Gunnar nodded.

"We will be gone by dawn Acair. When we do find a place to stay though, I'd like to continue trade with you."

"Alright, as long as ye aren't on the island anymore."

"Deal."

The two shook hands and left back to their villages. Gunnar gave orders to pack up what they came with, plenty of food and water, and to get on the boats before dawn. The Vikings did as they were told this time. Gunnar found out who the two were that had tried to steal from Acair and that they were still at Acair's. A messenger hawk came with a letter for Gunnar. He took it and it said that he could kill the two who had tried to steal from him. Gunnar wrote on another piece of paper that Acair could also kill the two Vikings. He didn't need two greedy Vikings in his village. The two people from DunBroch were placed in the center of the village with their hands behind their backs. Gunnar easily hacked their heads off with his axe and they left, leaving the two bodies to the buzzards. Mushroom was disappointed that he didn't get some gold but he hid it easily so

nobody would question him.

One day after leaving the Scottish highlands, they found another island that had nobody on it so they claimed it as their home. When they were trying to come up with a name for it, a woman went into labor. She gave birth to a son that she named Berk.

"This is the first baby to be born on this island. We shall name the island after him, Berk," Gunnar said.

The Vikings still live on Berk till this day. They have not left but they have encountered a slight pest problem. Dragons.

A/N: I wrote this to explain why the two clans don't like each other and I'm also not sure how Berk got its name so I came up with a reason. Remember, if you have any tips on accents for me, feel free to put them in comments or you can just comment how you thought this chapter was. You can also favorite and/or follow this story. Bye!

2. Chapter 2

**A/N: Here's the next chapter! Hope you guys like it and please feel free to leave tips or just what you thought about it in the comments. They're not really at war, just not on good terms with each other but they still trade so sorry for the confusion. **

Chapter 2: Meeting the First Time

Third Person's P.O.V.

Stoick the Vast had just landed his ship on the shore of the Scottish highlands to meet with King Fergus for trading. He had to bring his son Hiccup because his mother hadn't been feeling so well lately and everyone else was busy because the last dragon attack had caused a lot of damage. He kept a hand on Hiccup's shoulder so he wouldn't wonder off. Hiccup was small and couldn't really defend for himself seeing as he was only five and smaller than the other Viking children so he didn't want some DunBroch villager taking him and killing him. He entered the meeting room where a large table was set up and sat down in his chair, pulling Hiccup into his lap.

"Now son, be quiet while me and King Fergus have our talk," Stoick whispered into his son's ear.

Hiccup nodded and clutched his toy dragon, which his mother had given him, to his chest. King Fergus came walking in with what looked like a large ball of curly fiery red hair on his back. He sat down and pulled a little girl about Hiccup's age onto his lap.

"Sorry 'bout bringing Merida to this but her mother is visiting relatives and won't be back 'til tomorrow," Fergus said.

"It's alright, I had to bring Hiccup along," Stoick said.

"Now let's begin."

While the two older men talked, both of the kids played with their own toys; Hiccup with his dragon and Merida with her little wooden

horse. It was about a quarter of the way into the conversation that Hiccup had that urge to go. He began to poke his father's arm and it was on the third poke that he finally got his attention.

"What is it Hiccup? I'm a little busy at the moment," Stoick said, a little annoyed.

"I gotta go," Hiccup said urgently.

"*sigh*, Is it alright if he uses your bathroom?" Stoick asked.

"Yes, I'll have one of me guards show him the way." King Fergus was about to wave a guard over but was stopped by Merida.

"I can show him the way! Please, Daddy?" Merida asked and looked at him with pleading eyes.

"Alright," Fergus said and Merida jumped off his lap.

"C'mon Haddock!" Merida grabbed Hiccup's hand and dragged him along.

They made a couple turns until they came to a single door in an empty hall.

"Here ye go," Merida said.

"Thanks," Hiccup said quietly and went in.

When he came back out, he saw Merida waiting for him.

"We better get back soon or we'll get in big trouble," Hiccup said quietly.

"Naw, c'mon, I want to show ya something!" Merida grabbed his hand again and dragged him off again.

"But we'll get in trouble!" Hiccup said as he struggled not to fall flat on his face.

"No we won't as long as we keep it a secret," Merida said and stopped at a door.

She opened it and there was a large staircase. Merida continued to pull Hiccup along until they came to a large field with targets on the other end.

"This is where Daddy has me practice me archery and sword fightin' but I just started so I'm not that good yet," Merida said.

"I'm not good at sword fighting or archery so. In fact, I'd probably injure myself or at least that's what everybody except my mom says. Everybody thinks that I ruin everything," Hiccup said and gripped the toy dragon tighter.

"No ya don't. How 'bout I teach ya some stuff?" Merida said and brought him a training sword.

"That's not the best idea," Hiccup said but Merida shoved the handle

into his hands.

The tip of the blade hit the ground since Hiccup couldn't hold it up.

"C'mon Haddock, lift the blade off the ground," Merida said as she grabbed her training sword.

Hiccup managed to lift it but he didn't know how long he could hold it.

"Now practice the swing."

Hiccup tried but both he and the sword fell to the ground.

"Maybe we should start you with archery. It's much easier than swords," Merida put away the swords and grabbed two bows and some arrows.

"So ya just pull it back, relax, aim, take a deep breathe, let it out slowly, and let go," Merida instructed.

Hiccup did as she asked and Merida checked and corrected the things he was doing wrong. They did this multiple times until he hit the third ring towards the middle.

"We should head back now since it's been awhile," Hiccup said.

"These meetings take a while so don't worry. Besides, I want ta give ya a quick tour of our castle," Merida said.

Hiccup followed her around while she showed him different rooms and secret passages built in the castle long ago by her ancestors. Hiccup paid attention since he knew he would never see this again. They were outside the room that their dads were in when Merida stopped him.

"Now, before ya go I need ya to promise me something. Promise me that ya will practice archery and sword fightin' until we meet again, to get as good as ya can and never give up. And don't let what people say stick in your mind and that you can do great things. Pinky promise Haddock," Merida said and held out her pinky.

Hiccup wrapped his pinky around hers.

"I promise."

Merida opened the door and they walked in. The two men noticed they came in and stood up.

"I best be goin' now that Hiccup's back."

"Yes, Merida, it's time for your lessons," Fergus said and scooped Merida up.

"Yay!" Merida said, " Bye Haddock."

Merida waved.

"Bye Merida," Hiccup waved back and followed his dad out back to the boats.

A/N: Yay! Another chapter done! Now to think of how the next one will go. Remember, you can leave me tips on accents or just say how you liked it.

3. Chapter 3

A/N: Hello there lads and lassies! I don't think it's been that long since I last updated but that's a good thing! Anyway, I'll let you read on before I start to ramble. ** And I don't own Brave or HTTYD. This also starts off when Hiccup is looking for Toothless after he shot him down.**

Chapter 3: The Message

Third Person's P.O.V.

11 years after Hiccup and Merida meetâ€¦

Hiccup was in the forest, looking for the Night Fury that he'd shot down but couldn't find, placing another X in his book. He then began scribbling angrily all over the map and shut the book, placing it in the pocket in his vest.

"Why do the gods hate me? Some people lose their knife or their mug, no not me; I manage to lose an entire dragon!" Hiccup exclaimed angrily.

He hit a branch but it came back and slapped him in the face. He yelped and looked up and noticed the branch was nearly broken off the tree like something big had hit it hard. Hiccup looked in the direction the branch had been broken and noticed a deep trail in the ground and the trees surrounding the trail were all broken. Hiccup slid down into the trail and walked to peek over a small hill where he saw the Night Fury. The small Viking gasped and quickly ducked back into hiding. Hiccup peeked back over and quickly pulled out his hand knife. He slid down the little hill and ducked behind a large rock and then came out after seeing it wasn't moving.

"Oh wow, I did it. Oh I did it, this fixes everything! Yes, I have brought down this mighty beast!"

Hiccup put a foot on the dragon's shoulder but was shoved off and hit the rock he'd been hiding behind. He held his knife out as the dragon exhaled loudly. He looked over at the dragon's face and saw its yellowish-green eye open and looking at him. Hiccup looked over the dragon's body, feeling a little sorry for it as he held his knife above it. He looked back at its face and it let out a sound like he was doing a small plead to let him go. The Viking began taking in deep breathes.

"I'm gonna kill you dragon. I'm gonna, I'm gonna cut out your heart and take it to my father."

Hiccup switched the knife's position in his hand so the blade was facing downward.

"I am a Viking. I am a Viking!" Hiccup yelled at the dragon.

He raised the knife above his head and was about to strike but looked into the dragon's eyes. It looked back at him with a scared look, like how he did. He shook his head and prepared to bring the knife down again. The dragon let out a sound of defeat and rested its head on the ground. Hiccup sighed and rested the knife on top of his head, then looked at the knife and then at the ropes that were around the dragon.

"I did this," Hiccup said, backing away.

He looked around and then back at the ebony colored dragon lying there, tied up in the ropes. The boy kneeled down next to the beast and began to cut away at the ropes. The dragon's eyes popped open in surprise and he looked over in Hiccup's direction. He felt the ropes loosen and when Hiccup cut the last one he pounced on the boy, sending him flying back and hitting the large rock. Hiccup began to breathe fast as one of the dragon's paws was pressing down on his chest and his neck was in between its claws. The dragon glared at him with its eyes and it scared Hiccup half to death. Hiccup tried to squirm out from under the large paw but it just pressed down harder. The ebony beast opened its mouth, spread out its large wings, and let out a loud roar right in Hiccup's face, then flew off into the forest, leaving Hiccup frozen to the bones. Hiccup let out a deep breathe he hadn't realized he had been holding, scooped up his knife, and stood up. He watched its silhouette as it flew off and disappeared then turned around to leave but his legs gave out from under him and he face planted with the ground. When Hiccup regained the feeling in his legs and could walk, he left back home.

It was dark when he got back home. He snuck in and saw his father poking at the fire and quickly made a beeline for the stairs. When he was half way up the stairs, his father spoke.

"Hiccup."

"Dad, uh, uh, I have to talk to you Dad."

"I need to speak with you too, son."

"I don't won't to fight dragons."

"I think it's time you learned how to fight dragons."

"What?"

They said these sentences at the same time.

"Uh, you go first," Stoick said.

"No you go first," Hiccup said.

"Alright, you get your wish. Dragon training, you start in the morning," the large Viking said.

"Aw man, I should've gone first uh 'cause I was thinking, you know, we have a surplus of dragon fighting Vikings but do we have enough bread making Vikings or small home repair Vikings?"

"You'll need this," Stoick said and handed Hiccup a large axe.

Hiccup struggled under the weight of the large weapon in his arms.

"Dad, I don't want to fight dragons," Hiccup said.

Stoick just chuckled.

"Oh c'mon yes you do."

"Rephrase, Dad, I can't kill dragons," Hiccup said, hoping his dad would actually listen this time.

"But you will kill dragons."

"No I'm really very extra sure that I won't."

"It's time Hiccup."

"Can you not hear me?" Hiccup asked shaking his head.

"This is serious son. When you carry this axe, you carry all of us with you," Stoick said, taking the axe and placing it back in Hiccup's hand correctly, "That means you walk like us, you talk like us, and you think like us. No more of, this."

The larger Viking gestured to the entire smaller one.

"You just gestured to all of me," Hiccup said annoyed.

"Deal?"

"This conversation is feeling very one sided."

"Deal?"

Hiccup sighed and said,

"Deal," in defeat.

Stoick picked up a large basket.

"Good, train hard, I'll be back, probably."

Stoick grabbed his hat, placed it on his head, and left.

"And I'll be here, maybe."

After Stoick left, Hiccup left the axe at the bottom of the stairs and headed up to his room. He was taking off his boots when he saw a rolled up piece of paper tied with a faded light blue ribbon on his bed that wasn't there this morning. Hiccup recognized the ribbon from the handle of the training sword Merida had shoved into his hands long ago. He stood up and grabbed it, untying the two foot long ribbon, shoved it in his vest pocket with his book, and unrolled the parchment. It said, ***(A/N: Sorry for interrupting but for the message, Hiccup is hearing it in Merida's accent from when they were

kids because he doesn't know what she sounds like now so I didn't want to cause any confusion as to why it's written in her accent.)**

'Aye Haddock, how's life treatin' ya? I know it's been awhile but I finally got my own messenger hawk so I can secretly send letters to ya. I knew ya would recognize the ribbon from trainin'. But listen, I'm sneakin' onto yer island to see ya! I need a place ta meet ya there and I told my parents I'm goin' to visit a relative a long ways away but the hawk they'll use is trained to go straight ta me so they won't know I'm there. Just send a letter back 'cause the hawk should still be there somewhere and after I get your letter I'll be there in about two days. You better have been practicin' while I was gone.

Merida.'

Hiccup looked up when he heard some shuffling and saw the hawk sitting up in the rafters. Hiccup grabbed a piece of paper, a charcoal stick, and some wool string. The boy sat down on his bed and used the frame as a hard surface to write on.

'Hey Merida, life's going well I guess. How's yours? I did recognize the ribbon so that was a good idea. That's great you're sneaking on the island and all but you could get killed if any of the Vikings see you! I know I won't change your mind so I'll draw a map on the back of this and circle the place I want you to go and how to get there but be careful of dragons when you come. I'm surprised your hawk hasn't been eaten. Again, be careful and I'm serious Merida, they're dangerous if you don't know how to handle them. And I have been practicing so don't worry. How about a practice fight sometime on your stay here?

Hiccup.'

Hiccup drew on the map, rolled up the paper, tied the wool string around it, and whistled for the messenger hawk to come down. It did and took the letter into its claws then left back to the Scottish Highlands. Hiccup then climbed into bed, many thoughts on his mind as he drifted off into a restless sleep.

A/N: Yay, Merida's coming in four days! I'm sorry if the chapters seem a little short right now but most will get longer as the story progresses. I hope you guys like this so far ad remember feel free to leave tips, comments, follow, and favorite. See you later lads and lassies!

4. Chapter 4

A/N: Chapter 4 everybody! Hope it's going well so far for you guys and I can't believe July is already about half way over! I don't want to go back to school but I also want to because I'm starting my first year of high school. I don't own HTTYD or Brave and this starts at where Tuffnut and Ruffnut say how they're hoping to get injured. The *_italics _***are Hiccup's thoughts.**

Chapter 4:

Third Person's P.O.V.

"I hope I get some serious burns," Tuffnut said.

"I'm hoping for some mauling like on my shoulder or lower back," his sister and twin, Ruffnut, replied.

"Yeah, it's only fun if you get a scar out of it," Astrid said.

"Yeah, no kidding, right? Pain, love it," Hiccup said in a sarcastic tone as he came into the arena, _Hope I don't get seriously injured before Merida gets here._

"Oh great who let him in?" Tuffnut asked annoyed.

"Let's get started! The recruit who does best will win the honor of killing his first dragon in front of the whole village," Gobber said, waving his hook for dramatic effect.

"Hiccup already killed a Night Fury so does that disqualify him?" Snotlout said and the twins laughed.

"Can I transfer to the class with the cool Vikings?" Tuffnut asked.

"Don't worry, you're small and weak. That'll make you less of a target. They'll see you as sector **(A/N: I couldn't hear what he said.) **and sane and go after the more Viking like teens instead," Gobber said and patted Hiccup on the shoulder, "Behind these doors are just a few of the many species you will learn to fight. The Deadly Nadder."

Well that's a good thing.

"Speed eight armor sixteen," Fishlegs said.

"The Hideous Zippleback."

"Plus eleven stealth times two."

"The Monstrous Nightmare."

"Firepower fifteen."

"The Terrible Terror."

"Attack eight venom twelve."

"Can you stop that!" Gobber yelled at Fishlegs, "and the Gronckle."

Gobber placed his hand on a lever next to the door the Gronckle was behind.

"Jaw strength eight," Fishlegs whispered to Hiccup.

"Whoa, wait, aren't you gonna teach us first?" Snotlout asked quickly.

"I believe in learning on the job." Gobber pushed the lever

down.

The log holding the doors close was lifted and the Gronckle burst through the doors and the teens scattered.

"Today is about survival. If you get blasted, you're dead. Quick, what's the first thing you're going to need?"

"A doctor," Hiccup said, _ I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die._

"Plus five speed," Fishlegs said.

"A shield," Astrid said.

"A shield, go. The most important piece of equipment is your shield. If you must make a choice between a sword or a shield, take the shield," Gobber said, shoving a shield into Hiccup's hand.

The twins had grabbed the same shield and began to fight over it.

"Get your hands off my shield," Tuffnut yelled.

"There's like a million shields!" Ruffnut exclaimed.

"Take that one it has a flower on it, girls like flowers," Tuffnut said and motioned with his head where the shield was.

Ruffnut then hit her twin on the head with the shield they were fighting over.

"Oops, now this one has blood on it."

They began to fight over it again and the Gronckle shot it with a blast of fire, blasting the shield away and knocking the twins to the ground.

"Tuffnut, Ruffnut, you're out," Gobber said.

"What?" Tuffnut said in a daze from hitting his head.

"Those shields are good for another thing; noise and make lots of it to throw off a dragon's aim."

Everybody that wasn't out began to bang the weapons that they had brought with them against their shields and the Gronckle became confused, the teens becoming blurry images to it.

"All dragons have a limited number of shots. How many does a Gronckle have?"

"Five?" Snotlout asked.

"No, six!" Fishlegs corrected.

"Correct six, that's one for each of you."

The Gronckle blasted the shield out of Fishlegs and it shattered against the wall.

"Fishlegs, out," Gobber said and Fishlegs ran away screaming.

"Hiccup, get out there!" Gobber yelled as Hiccup walked out from behind a wood plank.

The Gronckle blasted at Hiccup but missed, hitting the wall and making Hiccup duck back behind the wood plank.

Ok Hiccup, you have to survive so Merida gets here safely.

Astrid and Snotlout were the only ones out in the open as the Gronckle looked around.

"So anyway I moved into my parent's basement, you should come by some time to work out, you look like you work out," Snotlout said but then his shield was blasted by the Gronckle and he fell back.

"Snotlout, you're done."

Ok, just me and Astrid.

"So, I guess it's just you and me, huh?"

"Nope, just you," Astrid said and ran out of the way.

Hiccup's shield was blasted from his hand and he fell back.

"One shot left."

Hiccup chased his shield and the Gronckle took this opportunity to go after him.

"Hiccup!" Gobber yelled when he saw Hiccup trapped between the Gronckle and the wall.

_Oh Gods, please protect Merida and make sure she gets off the island safely, _Hiccup pleaded as the dragon opened its mouth.

Gobber stuck his hook into the Gronckle's mouth and yanked it away so it blasted the wall above Hiccup and he dragged it off.

"And that's six. Go back to bed you over-grown sausage," Gobber said and swung the Gronckle back into its prison, locking it," You'll get another chance don't you worry. Remember, a dragon will always, ALWAYS, go for the kill."

The large Viking yanked Hiccup to his feet by his arm and Hiccup looked at where the fire blast had hit the wall, still sizzling and had a faint orange ring of embers. They all left and Hiccup immediately left to the forest where he had released the Night Fury. On the way there, he was thanking the gods and Gobber many times for saving his life. Now he just had to survive the rest of dragon training.

"So why didn't you?" Hiccup asked as he weighed the weight ball attached to the end of the rope in his hand.

Hiccup was confused on why the Night Fury didn't kill him. Maybe it was because Hiccup chose to let it go instead of cut out its heart?

Today wasn't foggy but actually sunny and pleasant so Hiccup walked on seeing if the Night Fury was still around until he came to a cove.

"Well this was stupid."

Hiccup looked around at the cove entrance and found some black round scales on the ground. He knelt down and picked one up, rubbing his fingers on it and then there was a flash of black and a roar that passed in front of him. Hiccup scrambled backwards and quickly looked to see what was scratching at the cove wall. It was the Night Fury and Hiccup watched as it fell down, sailed over the lake and landed on the other side. Hiccup's eyes widened in amazement and a small smile flashed over his face. He went to a lower rock platform to get a closer look and watched as the Night Fury tried to fly out of the cove but landed below him. He watched in confusion and amazement as it kept trying to fly out but remembered he had his book and charcoal stick so he quickly took them out. He made a quick sketch of the Night Fury.

"Why don't you just, fly away?"

Hiccup then noticed one of the dragon's tail fins were missing and blurred out one of the fins in the sketch, leaving a black smudge. He watched again as the injured dragon tried to fly again and land roughly by the lake's edge. The Night Fury caught sight of a fish and snuck closer then strikes but came back with nothing. Hiccup accidentally dropped his charcoal stick and it made a noise, catching the attention of the Night Fury. It looked up at him with remembrance in its eyes and Hiccup sat up. Hiccup tilted his head and the ebony dragon did the same. Hiccup stayed there for a little while watching the dragon while it vice versa. It began to get dark when clouds blocked the sun and Hiccup headed home.

Oh wait! That was the place I wanted Merida to meet me. I better meet up with her before she gets there.

Hiccup was soaked by the time he got to the Great Hall for dinner and he was hungry. He heard Gobber and the other teens talking on where Astrid went wrong. Hiccup was about to sit down but Snotlout scooted over into his spot so he took his chicken leg and went to an empty table.

"Where did Hiccup go wrong?" Gobber asked for how he wasn't hard on himself.

"Uh, he showed up," Ruffnut said.

"He didn't get eaten," Tuffnut said.

"He's never where he should be," Astrid said, her voice full of anger.

"Thank you Astrid," Gobber said hitting Ruffnut and Tuffnut upside the head as he walked past, "You need to live and breathe this stuff."

He pulled out a book and placed it on the table.

"The Dragon Manual, everything we know about every dragon we know of."

No attacks tonight, hurry up."

Tuffnut dropped the knife he'd been balancing.

"Wait, you mean read?" he asked.

"While we're still alive?" Ruffnut asked.

"Why read words when you can just kill the stuff the words tell you about?" Snotlout asked irritated.

"Oh, I've read it like seven timesâ€¦"

Hiccup blanked out on what everybody was talking about and thought of how he should meet up with Merida. She should be here in three days so he had to make sure to be waiting on the shore on the third day. Dragon training should be over by the time of day that she would arrive so all he had to do was hide out in the woods by the shore and find a new place for her to stay. It would be very easy seeing as nobody cared where he was. Hiccup was snapped out of his thoughts when everybody started to leave except for Astrid.

"So I guess we'll share-"Hiccup started but was interrupted.

"Read it," Astrid said and left.

"Uh, all by myself then, wow, so uh, okay, I'll see you uh."

Astrid slammed the door and everything was quiet.

"Tomorrow."

Hiccup sighed and went to get a longer lasting candle since he knew he'd be there a while. The other few Vikings who were there left everything completely quiet. Hiccup sat down and opened the book.

"Dragon classification class; strike class, fear class, mystery class."

Hiccup opened to a certain page and began to read. There were many dragons, the Thunder Drum, Timber Jack, Scaldron, and many others. Hiccup was feeling queasy when all of the dragons said 'extremely dangerous kill on sight'. He jumped when thunder boomed loudly and calmed himself down. Hiccup got even more queasy and frightened with what all these dragons could do and wanted to close the book but forced himself to continue. And then he came to Night Fury but everything was unknown except for one sentence.

"The unholy offspring of lightning and death itself. Never engage this dragon. Your only chance; hide and pray it does not find you."

Hiccup pulled out his book and opened it to the sketch of the Night Fury and then laid it on top of the Dragon Manual. He stared at it until another round of thunder broke him out of that trance. He tucked the books under his vest, blew out the candles, and sprinted back to his house, still getting soaked thanks to the downpour. He changed into dryer clothes and got into bed.

"Ok Hiccup, you just have to survive dragon training and make sure to find a safe for Merida to stay until she goes back home. You can do that, with a lot of luck," Hiccup said, emphasizing on the word 'lot'.

**A/N: I want to go along with the movie because it's kind of based on that plot but with some other things and some of the movie Brave mixed in and I wanted to also show Hiccup's thoughts on Merida during dragon training. Next will be how Merida is and what she's thinking.
**

5. Chapter 5

Chapter 5: On the Boat

Third Person's P.O.V.

It was early morning when Merida woke up in her extremely soft bed and groaned. It was one of those days where she didn't have to act like a princess and she usually didn't wake up this early but she knew why. She was excited to see if she got a letter back and there sitting on the table was a letter rolled up and tied with a wool string and her hawk sitting on its perch asleep. Merida quickly hopped out of bed, unrolled the letter, and began to read.

"I'm not scared of some stupid Vikings who think they're all big and tough," Merida said as she turned the paper over.

The place Hiccup wanted to meet Merida was a little ways in on the island but luckily she was taking Angus so at least it wouldn't take as long to get there. Merida placed the paper in her bag and quickly dressed into her normal dark blue cotton dress and grabbed her bow, quiver full of arrows, and her bag. She headed down to the dock where she would meet up with her brothers, mom, and dad to say good bye. The captain of her ship was an old friend and had seen Merida and Hiccup play together when they were younger so he kept the secret of how he was taking her to Berk instead of her Great Grandma Haggis about a half a month away so she had about a month to stay at Berk with Hiccup before she headed home. It took a few minutes to get down there and to the ship but she was instantly brought into a hug by her dad.

"I'm gonna miss ya Merida."

"I'm gonna miss ya too Dad but don't worry, I'll be back," Merida said.

The twins gave her hugs and each of them gave her a special candy wrapped in clothe.

"Thanks boys," Merida said, placing the sweets in her bag.

Her mum was the last person to hug and it was an awkward hug.

"Be good, study yer studies, and don't get into trouble," Elinor said.

"Yes Mum," Merida said and boarded the boat.

She waved to her family as they took off and then headed down below deck. Acair, her captain, had brought some training swords, extra arrows, a bow, and some targets for her and Hiccup to use. She wondered how far Hiccup had come along in his practice. It had been eleven years and Merida had come very far and she could easily make a bulls-eye. Merida set her bag next to her bed and headed up on deck, feeling the warm rays of the sun warm her skin. The sea breeze blew her hair out of her face and it left a salty smell in her nose. She stood next to Acair where she got a good view of her home, now only a small speck in the distance.

"Are ye excited to see yer friend?" he asked.

"Yeah, I haven't seen him in forever."

"What is yer friend's name again?"

"Hiccup."

"Sounds like a fine name for a Viking," Acair said, a smile on his face.

"I'm gonna go check on Angus."

Merida headed down below deck and headed to a room at the end of the hall made for livestock. The huge black and white horse whinnied when Merida walked in.

"Wanna go above deck?" Merida asked and took Angus' reigns off a hook on the wall.

Angus looked excited as Merida took him above. He breathed in the salty air and began to search the deck of anything interesting.

"He's happy tae be out of that stall," Acair said as he walked over to the side of the boat where they were.

"He always likes tae be outside," Merida said, stroking Angus' mane.

"I remember when ye went tae pick that horse and ya picked the smallest one they had for his breed. Yer father kept trying tae get ya tae pick the biggest one but ye wouldn't change yer mind. Ye have always been so stubborn, even today," Acair chuckled.

"Guess it runs in the family."

Acair headed back up to the wheel and Merida leaned on the railing, staring out at the open waters in the direction they were heading. Angus nudged her and let out a low Winnie.

"We won't get in trouble Angus so stop worryin'," Merida said as she stroked Angus' muzzle and continued to stare out at open sea.

**A/N: CHAPTER FIVE IS DONE! *happy dance*. **

****A/N:** Hello lads and lassies! I know there were some mistakes in the last chapter that I didn't capture while checking it but then again I was tired while checking it. Sorry for any mistakes I don't catch in this story and I'll try my best to catch them!**

Chapter 6: Day Two

Third Person's P.O.V.

Today in dragon training hadn't gone so well for Hiccup. They were dealing with the Deadly Nadder in a maze and when he went to tumble with his shield to sneak past the Nadder, he didn't make it all the way and things went into chaos. The whole maze was knocked down and when Astrid jumped off of a falling wall, he didn't move and she fell on top of him, making it a little awkward. Her axe was stuck in his shield and she couldn't yank it out so she hit the Nadder with it when it came to attack. The shield had shattered and all Hiccup did was curl up into the fetal position. Astrid asked angrily if this was some type of joke to him. She went on about how their parents' war was about to become theirs and to figure out which side he was on. Everybody left after that and Hiccup went to his house to grab a shield and a fish to bring to the cove. Hiccup climbed down in between the rocks of the cove wall to get to the bottom and held the shield in front of him. He tossed the fish over the shield and it landed on the grassy ground a couple feet away. The small Viking peeked out but the onyx dragon never came so he stepped forward, only for the shield he held to get stuck in between two rocks. Hiccup crawled under it and tried to pull it out but it wouldn't budge so he left it. He picked up the smelly fish and slowly walked around the cove. Behind him on a tall rock was the Night Fury, stalking him like a predator would its prey and looking ready to pounce. Before it could though, Hiccup caught a glimpse of its shadow and turned around so the Night Fury climbed down the rock, smelling the fish and lifting its head in the air and walked cautiously. Hiccup held out the fish and the Night Fury almost went for it but saw the tip of his knife poking out of his fur vest and stopped, growling at it. The small Viking went to take it out but the dragon's growl stopped him and he took his hand away and then he tried again, this time only grabbing the tip of the handle. He slowly pulled it out, held it at arm's length, and dropped it. The onyx beast motioned with his head to drop it in the lake so Hiccup scooped it up with his foot and tossed it in. As if a curtain had lifted, the NIGHT FURY, THE CREATURE OF LIGHTNING AND DEATH ITSELF, sat down and looked at Hiccup with large innocent greenish-yellow eyes as if it were a puppy. Hiccup held out the fish in both of his hands and the dragon warily crawled forward and opened its mouth.

"Huh, toothless, I could've sworn you had-"

Before Hiccup could finish his sentence, the Night Fury unsheathed its teeth and snatched the fish out of his hands, gulping it down easily.

"Teeth."

The black dragon began to go towards Hiccup and sniff at him but Hiccup began to back up.

"Uh, uh, I, uh, no, no, no, I, I don't have anymore," Hiccup said,

falling onto his butt and scooting back into a rock.

The Night Fury stared at him and then its eyes rolled back into its head. He began to make regurgitating sounds and then coughed up a headless fish.

"Ugh," Hiccup said, grimacing as he felt the dragon drool soak through his shirt.

The dragon sat on its haunches and watched as the Viking sat up and took the fish in his hands. It stared at him and Hiccup stared back. The onyx creature looked at the fish then back at Hiccup. Hiccup looked down at the fish and back at the creature as realization hit. He sighed as he hesitantly took a bite and 'hm'd in fake delight. Its ears stood up and Hiccup 'mhm'd as he lifted the fish a little. The Night Fury made a gulping sound and the boy gave the dragon a 'are you kidding me?' look. All and all, Hiccup swallowed the fish, almost puking, and gave the dragon a smile. The black creature gave him a confused look and then copied him and gave a gummy smile and Hiccup reached out to touch its snout. The smile disappeared and it bared its teeth. It flew off and landed roughly on the other side of the cove. Hiccup watched as it burned the ground in a circle and laid down on the warm rocks. He snuck over and sat down near it. It looked at him and let out a sound of annoyance as it laid its head down and covered its face with its fin. The small Viking reached out to touch the fin but the onyx beast lifted up its tail and Hiccup stood up quickly and walked off.

'_I better stay alive for Merida._'

Hiccup went over to sit on a rock and think for a bit.

'_Okay, any other spots on the island I can have Merida stay at? I want to have it nearby so maybe I can look around before it gets too dark. Or maybe I can move him somewhere? No, that wouldn't work. For once, I'm stooped on something._'

Hiccup found a stick next to the rock and picked it up, absentmindedly doodling in the dirt. He didn't really pay attention to what he was drawing until he noticed the Night Fury looking over his shoulder and watching him. He was drawing Merida from when he last saw her eleven years ago, holding a bow that was strung with an arrow. The dragon behind him waddled off and he watched as it came back with a branch and began to draw its own creation. It ended up whacking him in the head but it didn't hurt too badly so he let it go. The large onyx lizard with wings circled around him and finally stopped and Hiccup looked at the art. To another Viking, it would look like just a bunch of ordinary squiggles on the ground but to Hiccup, he saw that the dragon was trying to copy him. He stood up and took a couple steps and accidentally stepped on one of the lines, making the dragon growl and him freeze in place. The Viking looked down and lifted his foot, holding out his arms for balance, and the dragon returned to its puppy like form. He gently set his foot back onto the line and the dragon growled so he immediately lifted it. He did it once more, watching at the Night Fury switched emotions so quickly before stepping over the line and smiling at the dragon. Hiccup watched where he stepped and fell into some dance like thing as he made sure not to step on its art. He stopped when he felt warm air blow down on his copper tinted hair and he turned around amazed when he saw the dragon about two feet away from him. It stared at him

with those large innocent playful curious greenish-yellow eyes and he decided to be daring. Hiccup reached out his hand but the dragon seemed to shy away, letting out a small growl so he pulled back his hand a little. The Viking took a deep breathe, turned his head in the other direction, squeezed his eyes shut, and stretched out his hand. He heard no growl, only the silence of the peaceful cove and a small noise from the dragon itself. And then he felt the warm smooth scales under his palm and he let out a breathe he didn't know he'd been holding. So many emotions flowed through him; confusion, sadness, a little anger, amazement, shock, happiness, and so many others that he couldn't describe before the connection was broken. His heartbeat had synced with the Night Fury's. It snorted and ran off, leaving Hiccup with many emotions going around in a tornado inside of him.

'_I did it Merida._'

Hiccup left after that, deciding that they probably both needed to be alone to clear their heads. He looked in the area around the cove but any place that Merida could've stayed was either occupied by a dragon or some other animal so he'd have to make the arrangements with the Night Fury.

'_I'll name him Toothless. It has a nice ring to it and fits him._'

He went off to the tower that Gobber told them to go to for dinner but on the way there he puked up the raw fish Toothless made him swallow on the side of the trail. Dinner didn't seem so appetizing after that but he went anyway. During dinner, Gobber was telling the tale of how he lost his hand and his foot but Hiccup wasn't really listening since he'd heard the tale a thousand times but he was also stuck on why Toothless couldn't fly out of the cove and he was still shocked. HE HAD TOUCHED A NIGHT FURY! Other Vikings that got in a twenty feet radius of a Night Fury were killed almost instantly but yet he was alive. Then he heard Gobber answer his first question.

"Uh, uh, uh, it's the wings and the tails you really want. If it can't fly, it can't get away. I downed a dragon, it's a dead dragon."

Hiccup's eyes widened a little and when Gobber was saying they would get to the big boys tomorrow, he left silently down the stairs and the only one who noticed was Astrid who watched as he left. Hiccup immediately left to the forge and into the smaller room in the back that was his. The Viking flipped open his sketch book to the sketch he had of Toothless and redrew the tail fin that he scrubbed out. Hiccup worked most of the night, working on the leather tail fin for Toothless so he could fly again. It was hard work but Hiccup was talented in leather making so it seemed easy and finally he finished, checking the prosthetic fin for any loose threads or rips but there was nothing. He folded up the fin, wrapped it in a cloth, and headed home to get some sleep, for tomorrow, Merida was coming and Toothless would fly again.

****A/N: Merida's coming in the next chapter! Everybody ready? Review, follow, and/or fave!****

****A/N:** Hey guys and gals, I went to my freshman orientation yesterday and I got to see all my friends again and I finally got some classes with my best friend! The two years of junior high we never got any classes together, even after my schedule was switched. But my first day of school is Monday so that's when this story may slow down a little. I try to update every Saturday but I don't know how much homework I'll have so sorry in advance. ******

Chapter 7: Merida comes!

Merida's P.O.V.

I could see Berk on the horizon when I first got on deck this mornin' and I cheered. Acair said we should get tae the shore at about noon and I couldn't wait. I went down tae tell Angus and he seemed excited tae just get off the boat. I let him out and tae the deck tae get some fresh air. I looked at Angus' saddle and rubbed it. I'd missed ridin' him ever since we've been on this stupid boat but now I would get tae ride him tae the spot Hiccup wanted me tae meet him at. My messenger hawk was sittin' peacefully on its perch and I headed back on deck.

'_Berk here we come_.'

Hiccup's P.O.V.

I headed to the cove before dragon training with a large basket of fish. I was planning on tricking Toothless with the fish so I could put on the prosthetic tail fin I made last night. All the supplies Merida would need were in my room at home and I would bring them back here later before I went off to meet up with her.

"Hey Toothless, I brought you breakfast. I hope you're hungry," I said, pushing the basket over so the fish spilled out.

Toothless looked happy seeing the large amount of fish.

"Ok, that's disgusting. Uh, we've got some Salmon, some nice Icelandic Cod, and a whole smoked Eel."

We seemed to move in a circle and when I said Eel and he dug into the fish, he pulled back and let out a small growl, baring his teeth at the pile of fish. I dug into the stinky pile and pulled out the Eel by its tail. Toothless shrank back, completely unfurled his wings, and let out a loud shriek.

"No, no, no, no, no, no, okay," I tossed the Eel away and stuck my hand out which he sniffed with disgust," yeah, I don't really like Eel much either."

Toothless went back to the pile warily and began to swallow fish whole.

"Ok, that's it, that's it, and don't you mind me, I'll just be back here, minding my own business."

I laid the fin next to his tail and scooted it over to place it on but his tail moved away. I looked at him but he was still gulping down fish. I kept trying but he kept moving his tail.

"It's ok," I said and placed two hands on the tail to hold it down but he still moved his tail.

While I was trying to hold his tail down, he saw more fish in the basket and stuck his head in, causing me and the tail to slide forward. I looked at him unamused and climbed onto his tail so my back was facing him. I finally managed to get it buckled on and noticed him moving his other tail fin a bit. Once I finished buckling it I spread the fin out to have a look.

"Huh, kay, it's not too bad if it works whoa!"

I gripped onto Toothless' tail as he took off. The ground rushed away and I kept moving up and down with each wing beat. I looked at the fin and saw it wasn't staying open. I felt us going down and heard Toothless roar so I grabbed the prosthetic's edge and pulled it open, making us fly again.

"Oh my, it's working," I exclaimed and turned it so Toothless turned too.

We swooped back down so we were over the lake of the cove and I stared at the fin in amazement.

"Yes, yes, I did it!"

Next thing I know I'm being flung into the water and it's icy cold, shocking me for a second. I saw Toothless crash into the water and I broke through the surface.

"Yeah!"

We climbed out and I know I need to hurry home and change to get to dragon training in time. Before I left, I grabbed the Eel and stuck it under my vest to test if it would work on other dragons.

"Today is about teamwork," Gobber said and the doors to the Hideous Zippleback's cage burst open with fiery gas, "Where one dragon head can light its fire the Hideous Zippleback is extra tricky."

A greenish-grey smoke filled the arena and I stuck close to Fishlegs seeing as he was my partner and I clutched the bucket of water I had closer.

"One head breathes gas; the other one lights it. Your job is to know which is which."

"Razor sharp serrated teeth that inject venom for pre-digestion for its ambush attack, crushing its victims-" Fishlegs started but I stopped him.

"Will you please stop that?"

What Fishlegs had said had creeped me out. I know I touched a Night Fury and rid on one's tail this morning but I was still completely helpless out here thanks to the smoke. I still had the Eel but I didn't know if it would work. I heard Tuffnut yell and I jumped, careful not to spill the water in the bucket. We were slowly spinning in a circle, looking for any signs of the two headed dragon. I saw

Astrid and Ruffnut get knocked over by the dragon's tail when the smoke cleared a little.

"Chances of survival are dwindling into single digits now," Fishlegs said.

'_Please let me live, please let me live. Sorry Merida if I don't make it through this._'

One head came out of the smoke towards Fishlegs and I slowly backed away while Fishlegs hurriedly scurried backwards. He threw the water in its face but it was the gas head and I realized I was the only one with water left. Both heads came up to me and the one on the right was the lighter head. I tried throwing the water up high enough but didn't even get close and the water landed right in front of me.

"Oh come on."

'_Time for plan B._'

The lighter head shrieked and was about to strike but stopped and I stood up with my hands in front of me.

"Back, back, back!"

It backed up into its cage and I purposefully kept my vest open so the Eel smell would drift out.

"Now don't you make me tell you again. Yes that's right, back into your cage. Now think about what you've done."

I pulled out the Eel so nobody could see it and threw it in, causing the Zippleback to cower in the corner. I closed the doors and they lowered the log back in place. When I turned around, everyone was giving me amazed looks. Fishlegs even dropped the bucket he was holding.

"Ok, so, are we done? 'Cause I've got some things I need to uh, yep I'll just, see ya tomorrow."

I quickly left the arena and ran through the village to the forge to finish Toothless' saddle and get Merida's supplies. The shore I picked was out of sight of the scouts, a blind spot, so the ship wouldn't be seen sailing in and landing. It wasn't far from the cove but it was far from the village and no Viking ever went there because they saw no need to. When I finished the saddle, I headed to the cove and went to put it on Toothless but I ended up chasing him around the cove. It wasn't noon yet so we spent a little time practicing how the fin would work for flying. When it became noon, we had already learned that I would need a clip and a harness to stay on. I told Toothless I'd be back in a little while and headed off to the trail Merida would take to get here. It was quiet now with the birds chirping and I walked along the trail. Soon I came to shore and saw the water and a Scottish Highlands boat. I walked out past the tree line and almost got an arrow to the face. Thankfully it hit right next to my head.

"Who are you?" I heard a female's voice question.

It had a heavy Scottish accent and it sounded a little

familiar.

"I'm Hiccup."

"Hiccup? Is it really you?"

I saw fiery red hair and a familiar face peek over the edge of the boat.

"Merida?"

She climbed down the ladder on the side of the boat and a man who looked to be my father's age came down after her. I recognized him to be a man that was one of the guards by the stairs that went to the practice fields. Merida had definitely grown the last time I'd seen her. She wore a dark blue cotton dress, a quiver full of arrows on her hip, a bow on her back, and she was my height. She came up and hugged me and I hugged her back.

"Good tae see ya again Hic," Merida said, "Have ye been practicin'?"

"Of course! I always keep my promises," I said with a smile.

The man brought over a huge black and white horse and the messenger hawk.

"Here ye go Merida. Hello Hiccup, I'm Acair, another friend of Merida's. She's told me a lot about ye. I'll be staying at the boat instead of going along with Merida in case anything happens here.

"Well, this is a blind spot to our scouts and nobody comes down here since they don't see the use of it so you have nothing to worry about and the dragons should leave you alone."

"Good tae know and Merida, stay out of trouble. Yer father wants me tae bring ye back in one piece," Acair said.

"Don't worry Acair. I can handle myself and I've got Hic here tae help," Merida said.

Acair nodded and left back to the boat.

"Ever ridden a horse before?" Merida asked.

"I've ridden a yak."

"That works too. Hop on," Merida said and motioned to her horse.

I had trouble getting on the horse because of its large size but Merida helped and soon we were both on.

"Now this here is Angus and he's very easy with beginners. Angus, this is Hiccup."

The horse snorted in response and I stroked his mane. I grabbed the reigns and looked to Merida for help.

"Just gently squeeze your legs together and flick the reigns and

he'll go into a nice easy trot."

I did as I was told and the next thing I know, Angus is going really fast down the trail.

"I thought you said he'd go into a trot?" I asked loudly to Merida who ended up gripping onto me tightly.

"He must be messin' with ya. Yank on the reigns!"

I did and when he stopped, we went flying forward and into the cove. I managed to hook my arm over a root and grab Merida's hand with the other. I tried to pull her up but I wasn't strong enough. Toothless was woken from his nap and came rushing over, growling at Merida.

"Hic, why is there a dragon here!?" Merida asked and tightened her hold when she began to slip," And why does he have a saddle?"

"He's friendly. Toothless, catch Merida!" I called down.

"He doesn't look too friendly tae me!" Merida yelled and slipped a little.

"Toothless please, she's a friend!" I called down but he wouldn't stop growling and I realized why," Take your quiver off and through it over there as far as you can."

"Why?"

"Just do it. He doesn't like weapons."

Merida quickly unbuckled it and tossed it away. Toothless stopped his growling and Merida slipped from my grasp.

"Merida!" I yelled and she screamed.

Toothless jumped and beat his wings so he could stay in the air long enough and catch her on his back and landed roughly. I managed to pull myself up and went around to the opening on the other side. I immediately raced over to where Merida was standing and saw she was being sniffed out by Toothless. She reached out and touched Toothless on his snout and he jumped a little, now sniffing her hand and then going to the satchel she had.

"No," she said and pulled the bag out of his reach.

"You alright?" I asked as I walked over.

"Yeah, he's friendly," Merida said and petted him on the head," can ye explain though why ye have a dragon here where ye wanted me to stay?"

We sat down and I explained to her what has happened ever since she sent me the letter and she stared at me in amazement.

"And this all happened in four days?"

"Yep."

"Does anyone else know?"

"No, if they knew, they would kill him and I would be banished."

"Wow, so we're the only ones. Never thought I would touch a dragon," Merida said, "We'll have to hold off practice then since he doesn't like weapons. Why'd you name him Toothless when he clearly has teeth?"

"When I first gave him a fish, I found out he can sheath and unsheath his teeth and it fit."

"You built this tail and saddle right? So he could fly again?"

"Yeah, I decided that it was my fault that he couldn't fly so I wanted to make it possible again. The good thing of having him here though is that I can learn more about dragons through him so I don't die in dragon training."

"Why are ye in dragon training anyway?"

"My dad said I have to. He says I'm a Viking and to act more like it."

"I know how ye feel there. My mum says I have to act more like a princess," Merida said.

"So we both have parent problems," I summed up.

"Yep."

I got up and grabbed the supplies I got for Merida and handed them to her.

"Um, there are some clothes in there and food and I'll tie up Angus and give him some food so he doesn't run off. I don't know if the clothes will be the right size because I had to guess. I have to head back to the village before Gobber realizes I'm missing and if you need anything, send a letter with your hawk."

"Thanks Hiccup," Merida said and I nodded and left.

One thing I noticed when I was around her was this weird feeling in my stomach that I've never had before. Maybe I'll ask Gobber about it sometime. I headed off for dinner up in the tower and some of them asked me questions like how I was able to control the Zippleback and have it go back into its cage. I told them I didn't know, and they left me alone except for Gobber who would look at me every now and then. I quickly finished my fish and headed off to the forge to do the harness.

The next morning I went to give Merida and Toothless breakfast and to work on flying. Her clothes that I made her fit perfectly. She wore a dark blue long sleeved shirt, a wide dark brown almost black, belt, a cream colored fur vest, a brown fur skirt, pants that matched her shirt, and dark brown fur boots.

"Can I try sometime?" Merida asked once we came back from roughly

landing in a soft patch of grass that I now called dragon nip because Toothless had been rolling in it.

"Once I have it all finished and safe," I said, "Wanna help me take off his fin and saddle?"

Merida gladly said yeah and soon it was off. I wrapped the fin and saddle in a blanket, said good bye to Merida, and left, that same feeling I got with her disappearing. Once I dropped off the saddle and fin at my house, I headed off to the arena for training. We were going against the Gronckle again and when it was coming straight towards me, I took out some dragon nip and held it out. It skidded to a stop in front of me and sniffed the dragon nip, looking very happy so I rubbed it on its nose and it rolled onto its side. When I was leaving to meet up with Merida and Toothless, the others crowded around and asked all sorts of questions so I came up with a lie.

"Ah I left my axe back in the ring, you guys go on ahead," I said, turning around and almost running into Astrid, "I'll catch up with ya."

I headed off with the saddle and fin to the cove. Me and Merida were talking about her brothers when I noticed Toothless trying to get to an itchy spot on his back in between his wings so I went and helped. I scratched around in other places and I found one under the neck that made Toothless drop down on the ground and he let out a happy sound.

"Ye found a sweet spot," Merida said and I got ideas in my mind.

"Yeah," I said and didn't notice Merida come up behind me and tickle me, "Hey, stop that!"

I laughed loudly as I tried to get away but Merida was fast. I saw an opening and took it. I turned fast and managed to tickle her back. She laughed as she tried to get my hands away but I was too quick for her.

"Oh yer gonna get it Hic," Merida said in between laughs as she began to chase me again.

Toothless joined in on the chase and soon we were all racing around the cove. I was running from Merida who was running from Toothless. I turned around, now running backwards, and tripped thanks to my clumsiness. When I had tripped, Merida was looking over her shoulder at Toothless so she tripped on my feet and landed on me. Time seemed to freeze like a lake's surface in winter. Merida's beautiful cerulean eyes were staring back into mine and all I could hear was our heavy breathing. Wait, beautiful? My arms had wrapped around her waist and her hands were on my chest from the fall. About five minutes went by when we finally realized how awkward the situation was and both of our faces turned as red as her hair.

Merida's P.O.V.

I hadn't been looking when Hic tripped and I felt like everything froze when I landed on him. His eyes were a very interesting shade of moss green and his freckles made him look cute. Wait, cute? I could feel his heart beating very fast against my palm and our heavy

breathin' was the only thing I could hear. I felt his arms around my waist and I finally realized how awkward this was. I felt my face heat up and Hic's face looked like a tomato.

"Sorry," we both said at the same and our faces got even redder.

I quickly stood up and held out my hand to help him up and he took it. One thing I learned that stayed the same over the years for Hiccup was that he was extremely light like a fishbone.

"Thanks," Hic said and I nodded.

Things seemed a little awkward after that but then Toothless came over holding my quiver in his mouth.

"Want tae show me how good ye are?" I asked and a smirk came onto Hic's face.

"I could beat you any day."

"Is that a bet Haddock? Whoever loses has tae eat one bite from half of a regurgitated fish from Toothless."

"Oh you're on."

We got the extra bow, targets, and swords from the ship and set them up. I handed Hic the extra bow and a quiver and he buckled the quiver on.

"Ready?" I asked and he nodded taking his place.

I shot first and immediately hit the bulls-eye. Hic didn't look worried and took aim. He fired and hit a bulls-eye too. We moved on tae sword fighting. I had tae admit, Hic had improved a lot from the last time I'd seen him with a sword. He could train the guards a thing or two back home. We locked and I looked into his moss green eyes again. They were full of determination, energy, and fun. I hooked my foot behind his ankle and pulled, knocking him to the ground on his back.

"Nice trick," Hic said and then I was on the ground on my back too.

We both laughed.

"You too," I said as we were about tae stand up but Toothless knocked us back down and got us in the face with his wet slobbery tongue.

After that was over, we cleaned off our faces in the lake. It was starting tae get dark and a little cold and Hic started tae head off. Later on in the night, I was really cold and Toothless was asleep so I sent a message tae Hic with my hawk.

I'm cold.

I waited a few minutes and Hic came into the cove tae where I was, sitting with my knees against my chest and my arms around them, tryin' tae keep the heat in.

"C'mon, let's go to my house. My dad's gone and nobody else is there and it's warm."

"Okay," I said and stood up.

We have tae walk and Hiccup gave me his fur coat which was very large so I was guessin' it was his father's. I placed one side over him so the coat was over both of us and it was nice and warm. Though now that we were both in the coat, we were shoulder tae shoulder and there was no room for movin' but it kept us warm so I didn't care. Finally, we came tae a large wooden house and we walked in. It was warm and the remains of a recent fire were in a fire pit in the middle.

"It's nice," I said and we slipped out of the fur coat.

"Uh, thanks, my mom designed it when she married my dad."

"How is yer mom?"

I saw Hic flinch a little and I knew I asked about a touchy subject.

"Ye don't have to answer."

"Thanks," he said and led me upstairs, "welcome to my room."

I looked around.

"You'll take the bed and I'll take the floor."

"I can take the floor if ye want," I said.

"No, no, you're the guest," Hic said and started makin' his bed on the floor.

I grabbed the blanket and pillow off the bed and set them up next to Hic's.

"What are you doing?"

"If yer sleepin' on the floor, then I am too."

"I know I won't change your mind so make yourself comfortable."

"I will."

I was still a little cold under the blanket so scooted closer tae Hic 'til I was back tae back with him. Now I was warm.

"Night Hic," I said.

"Night Merida."

**A/N: And now I'm done with this really long chapter. Sorry if this was too long for you guys. **

****A/N:** Hey guys, sorry this took so long to update but school dumped a bunch of homework on me and I had writer's block for a few days.

Chapter 8: Feelings Come Out

Hiccup's P.O.V.

I woke up all nice and warm and something was wrapped up in my arms. I blinked the sleep from my eyes and saw a large mound of curly frizzy red hair that smelled like flowers. I then noticed it was Merida sleeping peacefully against my chest. Her arms were also wrapped around me. I felt myself go red in the face but I didn't want to move in fear of disturbing her. She looked like an angel and I felt my face get even redder from the thought.

'_Merida is just a friend_', I thought to myself.

Somehow in the night, we'd gone from being back to back to in each other's arms. There were no windows in my room so I couldn't tell what time it was but I had a feeling it was sunrise. Gobber would be expecting to see me at breakfast soon so I would have to get her up one way or another. I thought about just waking her up while we're in this position but that would be too embarrassing for her. Maybe she was a heavy sleeper. I slowly moved my arms away and then slowly moved hers and she didn't stir. I slowly turned and sat up and pulled the blanket over where I had been to trap in the heat. She only stirred a little but didn't wake. I sighed in relief and I noticed that feeling in my stomach lessened a little but was still there. I quickly wrote a note saying I had to go feed Toothless and go to dragon training and to help herself to any food in the pantry as long as nobody else was in the house. I then left, worrying that my dad or somebody would go into my room and find her.

'_Don't worry, she'll be fine, she can find a good hiding spot._'

I went to the Mess Hall, grabbed a plate of food and sat down alone at one of the tables. I looked over when I felt a great weight settle on the bench.

"What's troublin' ya?" Gobber asked as he took a bite out of his sausage.

"Oh, it's nothing," I said, hoping he would just ignore me like everyone else did for once.

"Suit yerself, but if ya need to talk to someone, find me."

Gobber went back to eating and I took small bites of my eggs. Once I was done, I rushed off to the cove with a big bucket of fish. Toothless was excited to see me and seemed to look around for something and I realized he was looking for Merida.

"She's at my house Toothless, you'll see her in a little while though," I said, placing a hand on his head and dropping the basket on the ground, tipping it over, "eat up."

Toothless quickly scooped up fish into his mouth and swallowed them whole. I left after that and when I got to the arena, everybody was already there except for Gobber. I leaned against the wall while

everybody else was in a circle, talking about who knows what.

'_Everything's ready for a test flight so after dragon training, I can do the flight and since Merida's wanted to take a ride, she can come._'

I heard the clink of Gobber's wooden leg clink against the stone and I looked over.

"Today, we're takin' another round at the Deadly Nadder so prepare yerselves," he said and we quickly went to get shields and weapons.

I noticed Gothi the elder watching from up above and then I heard the lever being pulled and the large wooden door burst open. Everyone was taken down quickly except for me and Astrid. The Nadder came for me and Astrid raced up behind it, screaming a war cry and axe raised. I remembered what I did to Toothless yesterday and dropped my weapons and shield. The Nadder stared at me confused and I quickly searched for its 'sweet spot' as Merida had dubbed it. The Deadly Nadder collapsed and Astrid froze with her axe raised. This time, Astrid stared at me weirdly and I was about to leave when everybody else surrounded me, asking questions faster than Toothless could fly.

"Alright, alright, go on and do teenager Viking things. I need to talk to Hiccup alone," Gobber said and shooed everyone away, "Somethin's been troublin' ya Hiccup or it's like yer keepin' a secret. Wanna talk about anythin'?"

"Oh, uh, I'm good Gobber. Nothing's going on."

"Hiccup, I've known you since the day you were born and you've been my apprentice since you were five. I know somethin's up. Are you seein' anybody, like Astrid, or Tuffnut?"

"What? No, I'm not seeing anyone Gobber."

"How about that Sally girl that lives down the street from you? I heard she's nice"

"Gobber, I've just been busy working on some things."

"Alright, but if you ever need to talk, just find me."

I just nodded and quickly ran out of the arena to my house to pick up everything I would need for the test flight. I better be a little more careful around Gobber because for some reason, he's been a little more suspicious. Then again, I am leaving into the forest every day and don't come back until about sundown or later. By the time I got to the cove, I was out of breathe. I found Merida sitting on the rock I had sat on when I was doodling, drawing in the dirt with a stick, facing the opposite direction of the drawing I did of her. She didn't see or hear me when I was coming in and Toothless was bathing in the sun so I took this opportunity to sneak up on her.

"Boo!"

Merida let out a little squeal and jumped, about to hit me over the head with the stick but stopped.

"Hiccup!"

I laughed.

"Oh my gods, that was a funny squeal!"

Next thing I know, I'm hit in the stomach and all the air is knocked out of me.

"Ye better shut yer trap unless ye want to really be bruised," Merida said, getting ready to hit me again if I made another sound.

I just nodded, seeing as I couldn't say anything and stood up; wincing from the bruise I could feel forming.

"Sorry," I said once I got my breathe back.

"Ye better be."

"How about I repay you with a nice flight? Everything's ready."

"Oh all right," Merida said with a smile that said 'I forgive you'.

We hooked on everything onto Toothless and I helped Merida on.

"I can get on by my own," Merida said when I clambered on in front of her.

"Just thought it'd be nice to help," I said, "Let's go, bud."

Toothless took off and Merida's arms tightened around me almost instantly, making me have a happy, fluttery feeling in my stomach but yet some pain from the fresh bruise. We were up in the air, high above Berk and in the clouds. The sun was close to setting, tingeing them an orangish-pink color. Merida reached up with both hands and combed her hands through the clouds with wonder in her sparkling beautiful cerulean blue eyes. Her wild frizzy fire red hair that matched her personality flew back behind her. I quickly looked back down at my cheat sheet and I felt my face go red. Luckily, she wasn't looking at me at the time.

"It feels good with the wind in my-cheat sheet!" I said, scrambling for the scrap of paper that went flying from the clip it was once in.

Merida reached for it too but none of us got it and I felt myself come off of Toothless. We were all free falling with Toothless freaking out and Merida screaming.

"Toothless, you just have to angle yourself-" I was about to finish my sentence but Toothless hit me with his tail and everything went black, the last thing I heard was Merida screaming my name.

Merida's P.O.V.

"Hiccup!" I screamed as he went limp after Toothless accidentally hit him in the head with his tail.

Toothless managed tae flatten himself out and I grabbed the cheat sheet that was flying through the air next tae me. Toothless was tryin' to get tae Hic but he wasn't able tae with his large wings. I managed tae get tae Hic and wrapped one arm around his waist. The other arm I used tae grab ontae Toothless' foot. He grabbed my wrist and hauled us both up ontae his back. I placed my foot into the pedal and from watching Hiccup practice, easily managed to get us back into position and fly back into the cove with a slightly rough landin'. I immediately got off with Hiccup and laid him on the ground.

"Hic? Hiccup?" I asked and quickly laid my head against his chest for a heartbeat and breathin'.

I sighed in relief when I found both and then I heard a groan.

"Hiccup?"

Those forest green eyes I seemed tae get lost in opened and blinked a couple times.

"You're alright," he said.

"I'm alright? Ye should be worryin' about yerself. Ye got knocked out in mid-air," I said and hugged him.

Toothless came over and licked Hiccup's face over and over.

"I'm okay, Toothless," Hiccup said, pushing the dragon away with one hand while the other one rested on my waist.

I didn't mind at all and in fact, it felt nice.

"Well, I have to go and besides, it's pretty late soâ€¦"

Hiccup turned and was about to leave but I grabbed his hand.

"Wait, can ye stay here? After what happenedâ€¦"

"Alright, just let me get an extra blanket back at the house."

"It's okay; ye can share with me if you're okay with that."

"No, I'll share with you."

We laid down with the blanket over us and stared up at the stars, which seemed to shine even brighter tonight than other nights.

"Hey Merida?"

"Yeah Hic?" I turned my head tae face him.

"Do you ever get this weird feeling in your stomach, like a light fluttery feeling?"

"Yeah."

"When did you start feeling it?"

"When I fell on top of you during our tickle fight and every time I saw you after that."

"I felt it the first time I saw you here in the cove and every time I saw you after that. Merida, I, I love you."

"I love ye too Hic."

He gripped my hand underneath the blanket and leaned over and kissed me. I kissed back and tightened my hand around his. An electric spark seemed tae flow through me and the light fluttery feeling seemed tae intensify. Once we broke the kiss, gaspin' for breathe, I snuggled against his chest and yawned.

"Night Hic."

"Night Merida."

**A/N: Remember to leave your opinion in the reviews, favorite and/or follow the story and/or me and don't be afraid to leave any tips behind. **

9. Chapter 9

A/N: School is all I can say.

Chapter 9: The Dragons' Nest

Hiccup's P.O.V.

I woke up Merida to tell her goodbye and headed off to dragon training. Today, we were dealing with the Gronckle again and it would be just me and Astrid and the Gothi would choose who got to kill the Monstrous Nightmare. I grabbed a knife and a shield and ducked behind one of the wooden hurdles.

"Stay out of my way," Astrid said and left to another hurdle.

The Gronckle was heading in my direction and I looked over at my father. I wanted to make him proud. So, I found the sweet spot and used it, stopping g Astrid from attacking and her having a major tantrum.

"So, later," I said and was about to leave but Gobber hooked his hook onto my vest and yanked me back.

"Not so fast."

"I'm late forâ€¦"

"Late for what?" Gobber asked and I shut up.

"Ok quiet down, the elder has decided," Dad said and the crowd silenced.

Gobber held his hook above Astrid's head but Gothi shook her head and a feeling of dread filled my stomach. Gobber held his hand over my

head and Gothi nodded her head. That feeling of dread grew as everyone cheered.

"Oh, you've done it! You've done it Hiccup! You get tae kill the dragon!" Gobber shouted and Astrid sent me a death glare.

Fishlegs hoisted me up on his shoulder and I chuckled nervously.

"That's my boy!" Dad shouted down at me.

"Yeah, yes. I can't wait!" I said in mock enthusiasm that no one picked up on, "Hey Fishlegs, can you put me down?"

Fishlegs sat me down and after I managed to escape the crowd of over-excited Vikings, I headed to the cove to tell Merida and Toothless.

"Hey you guys. I have something very important to tell you," I shouted but no one was there.

"Who are you talking to?" I heard from behind me.

"Ah, Gobber! I was just talking to myself," I said and knew he could tell I was lying.

"Oh really, so, have you been trainin' with someone or are ya seein' a girl?"

"No, I just come here for some quiet time, that's all."

"Hic? Who's that?" I heard Merida ask from a couple feet away.

Toothless roared at Gobber and raced over to us to attack.

"A Night Fury!" Gobber yelled and pushed me to the ground and raised his hooked hand.

"No!" I yelled undid the hook on his hand, throwing it a few feet away, "Merida put away the arrow."

Merida lowered her bow and I managed to keep Toothless at bay.

"Gobber, I can explain."

"A Night Fury and the DunBroch clan's princess? At least I was half right 'bout you seein' a girl. Hiccup, your father needs to know," Gobber said and began to run towards the exit of the cove.

"Gobber, you just scared him and you can't tell Dad or anyone. They'll kill them both."

Gobber stopped and turned towards me. Merida came over and held my hand, intertwining our fingers.

"They have been the only ones there for me when no one else was. Toothless is my friend and I love Merida with all my heart. If I lost them, I don't know what I would do."

Gobber seemed to think for a few moments.

"Explain to me from the beginning of all that's happened ever since you shot down that dragon."

We sat down and I explained it all to him in great detail, the whole time never letting go of Merida's hand and keeping a hand on Toothless' head.

"You really are different Hiccup. What are ya going to do about tomorrow?"

"What about tomorrow?" Merida asked and gave me a quizzical look.

"I was chosen to kill the dragon by our elder because I successfully took down the Gronckle today instead of Astrid," I explained and Toothless flinched at the words 'kill the dragon'.

"But ya won't, right?" Merida asked.

"No, I'll try to show them that we don't have to kill them and train it instead. If that doesn't work, we'll leave together," I said and showed her our locked hands.

"That's crazy Hiccup!" Gobber exclaimed and I sighed.

"I know but it's the only way Gobber, unless you have a better plan," I said.

"Alright, but if you do leave, I'll explain the whole story to your father."

"Thanks Gobber," I said, giving him a hug.

When it got dark, Gobber left back to the village and I looked at Merida.

"Wanna take a nice night ride around Berk?"

"Of course."

We climbed on and Toothless took off. We flew up so high in the clouds that we saw these beautiful green and purple lights and then we flew lower and far from Berk.

"He really is amazin'," Merida said and rubbed the side of his neck.

Toothless purred but then stopped all of a sudden, his large pupils turning to slits.

"What's wrong, bud?" I asked but then he flew into a large cloud of fog.

A Monstrous Nightmare flew by us with a sheep in its claws.

"Get down," I whispered and we leaned forward on Toothless.

More and more dragons appeared in the fog with food in there clutches

and some were calling out to each other.

"What's goin' on?" Merida asked and clutched tighter to me.

"I don't know. Toothless, you have to get us out of here." I placed my hand on his head but he shook it off, "It looks like they're hauling in their kill."

A Zippleback looked at us and I tried to sink further into Toothless' back. The dragons began to drop down and weave in between large rock columns. We came to a large volcano and flew in through the side. The tunnel there was dark until we came to a large cavern light by the lava below.

"What my dad wouldn't give to find this," I said.

Dragons dropped the food into the large hole in the middle and landed on the flat surfaces on rock pillars around the cavern.

"Nice tae know that all yer food is being dumped down a large hole," Merida said.

"They're not eating any of it."

A Gronckle came in and barfed up a tiny fish. A giant dragon's head came out of the hole and ate the Gronckle.

"What is that?" Merida asked and her arms tightened around me.

I gripped the saddle harder. All the dragons scooted away from the edge to hide in the shadows and out of sight of the giant dragon. It began to sniff the air now and I knew it smelled us.

"Alright, bud, we got to get out of here."

Right when the giant dragon launched its head toward our hiding place, Toothless took off to the opening of the volcano where all the dragons were heading. The dragon tried to get us again but instead got and innocent Zippleback. We made it back to the cove after that with no dragon following us.

"It all makes sense. That nest was like a giant bee hive. She's the queen and they're the workers and she controls them," Merida pointed out and we landed.

We got off and headed over to Merida's sleeping spot.

"I have to head home before my dad gets suspicious. I'll see you tomorrow," I said and kissed her.

She kissed back and gave me a hug.

**A/N: Hey guys, I know it's been a while and I was busy with school but I was sick today and I didn't go to school so I was able to finish this chapter! **

10. Chapter 10

**A/N: Hello! Fall break's coming up for me and I'll try to work on

the story as much as I can but I have to work on a Christmas song for drama because some of us signed up to carol at a Rancheria and they'll generously donate a couple hundred dollars to our drama class and I signed up. I audition after the break so I have a week to practice. Let's just hope I make it! Sorry I couldn't post another chapter for you guys and gals. Oh, and another good thing, I'm gonna be Merida for Halloween and I'm memorizing Noble Maiden Fair from Brave! It's sorta hard to pronounce Scottish Gaelic but I have a whole month so I think I can do this! I'll post a picture of what I look like in my costume on November 1****st**** and I'll put the link to my Tumblr in my profile so you guys can check it out. **

11. Chapter 11

A/N: Hey! I'm back with this new chapter and I hope you guys enjoy it! And I don't own anything.

Chapter 10: Scottish Highlands

Third Person's P.O.V.

The crowd cheered as Stoick came to the front. The chief waved his hands and everyone went silent.

"If someone would have told me that in a few short weeks, Hiccup would go from well, being uh, Hiccup to placing first in dragon training, well I would of tied him to a mast and shipped him off for fear he'd gone mad!" Stoick exclaimed and the crowd cheered, "And you know it."

Stoick laughed.

"But, here we are. No one's more surprised, or more proud, than I am. Today, my boy becomes a Viking. Today, he becomes one of us!"

The crowd cheered loudly and Gobber came up behind Hiccup.

"Be careful now. You have a lady and a dragon waiting for ya."

"Thanks Gobber but if something goes wrong, just make sure they don't find Merida or Toothless."

"Promise me that nothin' will go wrong. It's time. Knock 'em dead."

Hiccup nodded and placed on the breast hat, walking out. Everyone cheered as the gate closed and Hiccup walked over to the weapons. He grabbed a knife and a shield. Hiccup took a deep breath and said,

"I'm ready."

The wooden blocks were moved and outburst the Monstrous Nightmare, flames licking at its skin. It crawled about the arena, even shooting fire through the chains at some of the villagers, who all ducked out of the way just in time. It climbed onto the roof and then stopped; looking down at the small weak prey it was given. It dropped down and slowly moved towards Hiccup who looked at the dragon with fear. Some

of the Vikings yelled things to Hiccup but he didn't move. All he did was drop his shield and knife and held his hand out to the slowly approaching creature.

"What is he doin'?" Stoick asked Gobber and the crowd began to boo.

Gobber watched with fear that it would go wrong.

"Hey, it's okay, it's okay," Hiccup said to the dragon.

The auburn haired boy reached up slowly and removed his helmet.

'Sorry Mom.'

"I'm not one of them." he tossed it to the ground.

People gasped and Stoick rose slightly from his chair. The dragon seemed to be thinking as to why this human was not attacking him.

"Stop the fight," Stoick commanded.

"No, I need you all to see this," Hiccup said and held his hand out, "They're not what we think they are. We don't have to kill them."

Before Gobber could stop him, the chief leapt out of his chair with his hammer.

"I said stop the fight!"

A large clang was produced and the Nightmare launched for Hiccup's hand with his jaws. Hiccup pulled back just in time and dodged the fire that was shot at him while screaming.

Toothless heard from in the cove and made a frantic dash to get out.

"Hiccup," Merida said and ran over to the ebony dragon, climbing onto the saddle, "Let's go."

They flew out of the cove and flew as fast as they could to the arena.

Hiccup was dashing around the arena and Gobber and Stoick were heading to the entrance. Hiccup grabbed a shield from the wall of weapons and the Nightmare knocked it down and the shield from his hands. Stoick yanked the entrance open.

"This way!" he yelled and Hiccup immediately ran for it.

But the Nightmare blocked it with a shot of fire and herded him off in another direction. It then jumped on him, its long claws going over Hiccup like a cage and that's when the whistling sound could be heard.

No, Hiccup thought.

"Night Fury!"

Toothless plasma blasted the bars and dove onto the Monstrous Nightmare. Merida jumped off him and ran to Hiccup's side. Toothless and the dragon rolled out of the smoke. Gobber ran into the smoke to find Merida and Hiccup.

"Are ye okay?" Merida asked as she helped Hiccup up to his feet.

"I'm fine but we have to get to Toothless," Hiccup said.

"This smoke won't last forever so c'mon. They'll attack if they see her," Gobber said.

"Right."

Toothless kicked the red dragon off of him and it roared. Toothless roared back and scooted closer to Merida, Hiccup and Gobber until it slunk off. Vikings began to jump in and Hiccup and Merida mounted Toothless.

"Let's go, bud," Hiccup said and they flew out of the arena towards the cove.

People shot arrows as they went off but they missed. When they landed, the two quickly packed all of their things.

"We have tae get tae the boat. We can take that back tae the Highlands where we'll be safe," Merida explained, "I'll get Angus while ye two head tae the boat."

Hiccup nodded and they got all of Merida's things onto Angus.

"I have to go back to my house to get a few things but I'll get to the boat," Hiccup said.

Merida hugged him and kissed him then he took off. He grabbed his sketchbook, a couple charcoal sticks, some candles, clothes, and some of his drawings. Then they flew to the shop since everyone was still at the arena and grabbed all of his things from his little room. Off he went to the Scottish ship and there he saw Merida and Acair standing on deck. They made room for him to land and Merida ran up and hugged him tightly.

"Ye're okay," she said, her voice laced with relief.

"Of course, why wouldn't I be?" he said and hugged back, "We might want to set sail soon or they'll be searching the island."

"Right," Acair said and headed to the wheel.

They were off and soon it was dark. Acair stayed up to keep them on course while the couple went down below to where Merida had been sleeping before she got to Berk.

"Today didn't go as I planned," Hiccup said, falling back onto the bed.

"Hey, look on the bright side, at least no one was injured and ye're

with me," Merida said and sat next to him.

"You're right," Hiccup sat up and removed his boots, "Ready for bed."

"I could use a good night's sleep," Merida said and Toothless climbed onto the foot of the bed.

Merida removed her shoes and climbed under the covers next to Hiccup, snuggling close. Toothless curled up at their feet and was instantly out.

"Night Hic," Merida said with a loud yawn.

"Night Merida," Hiccup said and wrapped his arms around the archer.

****A/N: To let you guys know, I put the link to my Tumblr in my bio so if you want to check it out, go ahead.****

12. Chapter 12

****A/N: Hey guys! First off, I'm SO SORRY! I didn't mean to be gone from FanFiction this long but life decided to throw many curveballs at me, one after the other. I may not be on for another couple weeks after this chapter because December is coming up and I need to work on some family things for Christmas. I'll try to post as much as possible because I've also been trying to keep up with my Tumblr and the link is in my bio if you wanna check it out!****

Chapter 12: Tales

Third Person's P.O.V.

Toothless woke the two sleeping teens by licking them both in the face, leaving behind his slobbery dragon drool.

"Oh, Toothless, really bud?" Hiccup groaned as he wiped the drool off with his hands and onto his tunic.

"That's one way tae wake someone," Merida grumbled and grabbed a towel from a basket on the other side of the room.

There was a loud grumbling and they looked at the ebony dragon who pleaded to Hiccup with his large greenish-yellow puppy dog eyes.

"You're hungry, huh bud?"

Toothless nodded his head up and down and grabbed Hiccup's sleeve in his mouth, pulling the small Viking off the bed and onto the floor.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," Hiccup said and stood up, pulling on his boots that laid about after he kicked them off last night, "Do you guys have enough fish or should we go hunting?"

"I would say huntin'. Acair didn't pack enough tae feed a dragon," Merida said, "I'll be up in a sec."

Hiccup and Toothless went up to the deck and Hiccup hopped onto the saddle, placing his foot into the pedal. Toothless went into a pouncing position and shook his haunches, unfurled his wings, and took to the sunny blue sky. The Night Fury's tongue flopped out of his mouth like a dog's as he flew up high and then changed directions towards the water. The wind felt great in Hiccup's hair and he moved his foot according to the way Toothless needed to go. The sea was plentiful with fish and Toothless was delighted by how many he brought back to the ship's deck. Hiccup left Toothless to his breakfast as he went below deck to find Merida. They bumped into each other at a turn and Merida began to fall. Hiccup hooked his arm around her waist before she hit the floor and Merida wrapped her arms around his neck.

"Sorry about that," Hiccup said and helped Merida back to her feet.

"It's alright, I should a watched where I was goin'," Merida said, "Where are ye goin'?"

"I came down here to find you."

"Well, now ye found me. Let's go."

Merida grabbed Hiccup's hand, intertwining their fingers, and they walked back up to the deck. Toothless came over, obviously happy from his breakfast, and followed the couple to where Acair was sitting with three bowls full of warm oatmeal.

"Hello, are ye hungry?" Acair asked as they sat down with him.

Hiccup's and Merida's stomachs rumbled in reply and the two teens blushed. They ate from the bowls and Hiccup 'hm'd' in delight.

"This is good."

"I made it myself," Acair said.

"Really?" Hiccup asked, moving his bowl away from Toothless who was becoming curious of the food in the bowl.

"I may not look like much of a cook but I learned from travelin' so much."

"Acair's food is the best," Merida said, eating the last spoonful of her oatmeal, "Are ye makin' yer stew tonight?"

"Of course. I know that's yer favorite of my recipes," Acair chuckled.

"How long have you known Merida?" Hiccup asked, letting the ebony dragon have the last spoonful and lick the bowl.

"E'er since she was born. I even saw ya two playin' when ye first met and that's the reason I'm here now was so ye can visit each other. I personally hate the rivalry between the Hairy Hooligans and the DunBroch Clan. Do ya even know the story?" Acair asked.

"Two Hairy Hooligans snuck in to steal some of the DunBroch's gold and two of their people snuck in to steal our fur. Most Vikings aren't great at forgiving people who've wronged them, like the dragons," Hiccup scratched Toothless on the head.

"Neither are most DunBroches," Merida said with a chuckle, "Have ye ever heard of Mor'du?"

Hiccup shook his head.

"He's a large and powerful bear; his hide littered with the weapons of fallen warriors and had the strength of ten men. He also has one scarred dead eye. My father fought him once when he raided our camp when I was a wee lamb. His sword shattered by hittin' him once and then he bit my father's leg off. He has never been seen since."

"Whoa, if a bear can do that then I don't want to know what the dragon queen could do."

Toothless growled at the mention of the horrible creature and Acair looked surprised.

"When did ye run intae the dragon queen? I know Vikings have been lookin' fer that creature fer years!" Acair questioned.

"We were out ridin' Toothless the other night and it was like he was taken under control by somethin' and we soon joined a bunch of other dragons that were flyin' in with their kill. We flew intae a volcano where the queen was stayin' and then it smelled us. We managed tae get out and back tae Berk," Merida explained.

"Ye're both lucky tae have that Night Fury protectin' ya. How did ye come across him?"

"I shot him down with some bolas during a raid one night. When I found him in the forest and saw the damage I did, I let him go but he got stuck in a cove and couldn't leave because of his missing tail fin. I visited every day and he began trusting me by the time Merida came and he saved her from falling in the cove because Angus went nuts. When I had to go and kill the Monstrous Nightmare yesterday and things went wrong, Merida came on Toothless and saved me and now we're here," Hiccup said.

"Ye were chosen tae kill the Nightmare 'cause ye won the dragon trainin'."

"How did you know?" Hiccup asked, surprised.

"I've traveled tae Berk fer all of the talks 'bout trade with yer fathers ever since Fergus started rulin'," Acair said, slowly standing to his feet, "I better lift the anchor and get us goin' again."

Acair walked back to the wheel and Merida and Hiccup stood, taking the bowls over to a washing bin. They rolled up their sleeves and washed away until the bowls were clean and dried. They leaned against the side of the boat, looking out over the sea, holding hands. They would reach the Highlands tomorrow.

"So what are we doing to get me and Toothless onto the island?" Hiccup asked.

"I was thinkin' tae sneak Toothless in at night. We have a place similar tae the cove but only I know where it is. My father doesn't remember what ye look like so we can dress ye up in some Scottish clothes and have ye stay with Acair," Merida explained.

"What should my story be?" Hiccup asked, "People will question if I don't have one."

"We could say yer parents died so ye sent a letter to Acair so he could pick ye up along our trip and take ye tae his home because he's the closest relative ye had."

"That should work. Do I need an accent?"

"I don't think so, but maybe we should give ye a slight make over. If Acair remembers ye then other guards might too. Acair knows a lot of ways tae change yer appearance from some spy werk his father did," Merida said, "We'll talk tae him 'bout it tonight."

There was silence again and then Toothless nudged Hiccup and lowered slightly, wanting Hiccup to climb on so they could fly.

"Seems like a good idea, bud. You wanna join us?" Hiccup asked.

"Of course," Merida said and climbed on.

Hiccup sat down in front of her and Toothless took to the skies with just a few beats of his wings. The air blew both Hiccup's and Merida's hair back and the princess reached up towards the clouds, her fingers becoming dewy from the mist.

Acair passed the stew out to the two teens and some into a larger bowl so Toothless could have some. Merida had spent some time with Angus after the flight from earlier, feeding him and grooming him while Hiccup spent some time drawing Toothless. When it slowly got dark, Acair dropped the anchor and began making dinner. They all ate silently and when they were all finished, Merida began to speak.

"Acair, we need ye tae do a makeover on Hiccup. Since ye remember what Hiccup looks like, we thought the other guards would too. The story we came up with was that Hiccup's parents died and he sent ye a letter so ye picked him up on our trip so you could take him back home because ye're the closest relative he had."

"Alright, luckily, I have enough of the temporary dye tae make his hair black and since he doesn't really have a Viking accent, he won't need a Scottish one. We'll say ye're from the main land since yer accent is close enough and after living in the Highlands fer a couple weeks, ye'll pick up the accent there. Let me get the dye."

Acair went below deck and came back up with a bottle of black liquid, a bucket of water, a towel, a mirror, and a bar of soap.

"If ye don't want yer shirt ruined, I would take it off."

Hiccup neatly folded up his shirt and placed it next to Merida and

Acair rolled up his own sleeves. He got Hiccup's hair soaked with water and lathered in soap, then rinsed out the soap and dried his hair. He squirted the black liquid into Hiccup's hair until the hair was soaked and completely black like Toothless' scales.

"Now we wait a few minutes and rinse the excess out. This dye will last for a couple weeks and then it'll fade but it's easy tae make and water proof."

They waited the few minutes by cleaning up and then Acair rinsed it all out. He held up the mirror to Hiccup.

"Wow."

"Ye look really different with black hair," Merida commented.

"I do. What do you think, bud?"

Toothless tilted his head at Hiccup's hair and sniffed it, sneezing afterwards, but Toothless whined a little.

"It's not permanent, bud, so don't worry, my hair will eventually go back to normal," Hiccup reassured, petting the dragon's head.

"Now, have ye chosen on a new name? Hiccup is a Viking name and everyone in the kingdom will become suspicious," Acair pointed out.

"Well, I don't really know any Scottish names."

"I know a lot. Frederick, Kyle, Gavin, Lewis, Alasdair-" Merida listed but was stopped by Hiccup.

"I like the Alasdair one."

"Alasdair it is then. That's a nice choice Hiccup. Not a very common name," Acair said, "We better head off tae bed, it's late and we'll be at the kingdom tomorrow. Good night now."

Acair went below deck to his room and Merida, Hiccup, and Toothless followed shortly after to their room. Hiccup and Toothless waited outside while Merida changed to her night dress. When she was done, Hiccup went in and pulled off his boots. The two teens snuggled under the blankets and Toothless slept at the end of the bed like the night before.

"Good night Merida."

"Good night Hic."

**A/N: I hope you guys liked this chapter. Remember, eat plenty of turkey or tofurkey and happy Thanksgiving! **

13. Chapter 13

A/N: I can't wait! Snoggletog is tomorrow! I just need to figure out a recipe for yaknog and see my family's reactions. And now that it's break, I can work on things I need to catch up on! Yay! Happy Snoggletog everyone!

Chapter 13:

Third Person's P.O.V.

>Hiccup woke up to the sunlight shining right in his eyes and yawned, burying his face into Merida's red hair. He didn't want to wake up because he was so comfortable and happy. Too bad they couldn't stay like this forever. Toothless went up to Merida and nudged the girl on the shoulder. Merida groaned and rolled over, pulling the blanket over her face and returning to her peaceful slumber. Toothless just looked annoyed and grabbed the blanket in between his gums, yanking it off the bed and its two sleeping companions.<p>

"Toothless," Merida yawned and sat up, rubbing her eyes to rid them of sleep, "Why do we have tae get up so early?"

"I think he wants us to get ready," Hiccup said, sitting up next to Merida, "I think we'll be reaching the kingdom soon."

Merida stood up and stretched, going over to a trunk and opening it. She pulled out a deep purple dress with gold swirls all over. This one looked exactly like her other dress except this one was purple and gold. Merida ushered Hiccup and Toothless out the door.

"Go tae Acair tae get yer clothes," Merida said and closed and locked the door.

They went up to the deck and saw Acair standing in front of the wheel, watching the sea.

"Hey Acair, I came to get my clothes," Hiccup said.

"Good, I managed tae find some that should be yer size," Acair said and handed Hiccup a neatly folded pile of clothes, "Put yer old clothes in Merida's trunk."

The boy went back down below deck and saw Merida just leaving her room. The purple dress really made her hair stand out and she looked really pretty in it.

"You look really pretty," Hiccup said, almost stammering, and blushed.

"Aw thanks Alasdair. I want tae get used tae sayin' yer fake name so I don't make a slip at home," Merida explained.

"Good idea. I'm gonna go get in my clothes," Hiccup said and slipped into Merida's room, locking the door.

The outfit was a simple Scottish outfit. It was a green kilt that matched his eyes, a brown belt, a brown long sleeved cotton shirt, and brown fur boots. Toothless liked the new outfit except for the kilt, which the dragon stared at in question.

"I'm not sure why Scottish men wear skirts and I'm not exactly a fan of it but I have to blend in," Hiccup explained, folding up his Viking clothes and placing them into Merida's trunk, "At least it's long."

They went up to the deck again and saw Merida talking to Acair, who

was scooping oatmeal into four bowls. Toothless had taken a liking to the oatmeal yesterday.

"I like yer outfit. The kilt matches yer eyes," Merida said, a smirk on her face.

"I think I can get used to wearing a skirt. Why do Scottish men wear kilts anyway?" Hiccup asked, taking the bowl Acair offered him.

"It's used as a national symbol of our heritage," Acair explained.

"That makes sense."

They easily finished off the oatmeal and Hiccup took Toothless out for a flight and to get him some fish since the oatmeal wasn't enough. Merida joined them and had a blast and when Toothless finished off the fish, the DunBroch dock came into view.

"Toothless, you'll stay below deck because this is Acair's personal boat and nobody will look down there. No matter what, stay below deck," Hiccup instructed and Toothless nodded, showing he understood.

Merida led them to the stables where Angus was staying. The Clydesdale horse whinnied loudly and reared up, almost striking Hiccup in the head. Luckily, the boy had ducked. Toothless shrieked and bared his teeth, moving in front of Hiccup to defend his rider.

"Whoa, Angus!" Merida grabbed the horse's reigns and yanked him back down.

"Toothless, it's okay, you just spooked him," Hiccup said, pushing the Night Fury closer to the entrance of the stables.

After the two animals were calm, Merida led Angus closer to Toothless. The closest Angus would get was a couple feet. Toothless, being protective, moved in front of Hiccup and moved slightly closer to Angus. Toothless knew what a horse was but he'd never seen one this big. Angus had never seen a dragon up close and personal and it scared him but then again, he was always apprehensive with unknown creatures.

"Angus, this is Toothless. Now I know he may look scary but he's actually a big sweetheart," Merida said, stepping forward and placing her hand on Toothless' snout.

Angus went up to his rider and sniffed at the dragon. He was still wary and looked up at the boy that had ridden him on Berk. He trusted the dragon and Merida trusted the boy so the dragon must be okay. He looked closely at Toothless. He was black as night and there were scars here and there from what Angus was guessing were fights. Angus sniffed the dragon right in the face. He smelled embers, fish, salt, and pine gently wafting off the Night Fury and he stared directly into those puppy dog eyes. No anger or danger was present, only curiosity, hope, and wisdom beyond Angus' years. Toothless also inspected the horse. He was quite large and he had long fur almost covering his hooves. He smelled of manure, hay, oats, and apples. The

horse had these large brown eyes full of intelligence, curiosity, wariness, and love for Merida. Finally, Angus snorted and lifted his head. Both of the animals looked both of their owners straight in the face.

"I think they approve of each other," Merida said, "I'm gonna take Angus up tae the deck."

Toothless nudged Hiccup and the boy wrapped his arms around the dragon's neck.

"Don't worry, bud, you won't have to stay on the boat long. Merida and I are sneaking you to a place in the forest where no one will find you and I'll visit every day with fish. Acair's house is right next to the forest so I can go and see you when I'm not doing work. Sound like a plan?" Hiccup asked.

Toothless nodded, albeit a little sadly, and followed Hiccup to the door and stopped, watching his friend walk down the hall and up to the deck. The dragon whined quietly and curled up in a soft pile of hay.

Hiccup was just as sad to leave his friend behind, even for a couple hours, and he was afraid something would happen while he was gone. Merida grabbed his hand and gave it a reassuring squeeze.

"Don't worry; everyone knows tae stay off Acair's boat unless they have his permission. Last time someone got on without permission, they were beat tae a pulp and thrown intae the ocean," Merida reassured.

"Remind me not to get on Acair's bad side," Hiccup whispered.

"Or on any Scottish's bad side."

"The princess has returned!" a guard yelled and people hurried to the dock to welcome Merida back.

Waiting at the end of the dock was Merida's family. Her three little brothers looked happy that she was home finally, she always made it fun in the castle, her father looked happy to have his little girl home, and her mother as always, looked poised and had a slight smile because her daughter was finally home. They all walked down the ramp and everyone looked surprised to see a new person had joined. Merida led Hiccup to her family.

"Alasdair, meet my family."

A/N: Now Hiccup (Alasdair) gets to meet Merida's family! Wonder how that'll go. The next couple of chapters may be confusing with the whole Hiccup being Alasdair thing because at some points I'll say Alasdair when Merida or Acair is speaking in front of someone who doesn't know the secret and other times I'll say Hiccup. Sorry for any future confusion. I'll try to do the next chapter as soon as possible.

14. Chapter 14

**A/N: Hey everyone, hope you guys had a great Snoggletog and got to

spend it with your family. **

Chapter 14: Meeting New People and a Party

Third Person's P.O.V.

"Mum, Dad, this is Alasdair. His parents died so he sent a letter tae Acair tae pick him up because Acair is his closest relative," Merida told her family the story they'd made up on the ship.

"Oh, in that case, the young lad's welcome tae stay with ye Acair. The more help around here the better," Fergus said, patting Alasdair on the back, almost knocking the poor boy over.

"Thank you, sir," Alasdair said.

"And he has manners," Elinor said, "He has my approval."

"Um, thank you, ma'am," Alasdair said and awkwardly kissed her hand.

"How about I show Alasdair around so he won't get lost later?" Merida offered, grabbing Alasdair's hand and dragging him off.

"That was awkward," Hiccup sighed.

"Why did ye act all mannerly?" Merida asked.

"To leave a good impression with your parents. Leaving a good impression might help our situation," Hiccup explained, "in case they find out later on."

"At least ye're on their good side," Merida said, "They were a wee wary about ye."

"I could tell."

"I've gotta take Angus tae the stables. Wanna ride with me?"

"Of course."

They mounted the large horse and took off. Hiccup had to hold on tightly to Merida so he wouldn't go flying off. They reached the stables and dismounted, Hiccup almost tripping on his face.

"I think we need tae work on yer horse ridin'," Merida giggled.

"I'm still working on riding Toothless and I've only ever ridin Angus once before and he didn't even listen to me," Hiccup said.

"Angus was only wary, ye were new tae him at the time."

They left the stables and came to the village.

"Back there were the docks and here is the village where all the villagers stay and there are many shops," Merida said, "There's the smithy since I know ye like tae build things. Let's go talk tae Oliphant."

"Who's Oliphant?"

"He owns the smithy."

Merida pushed open the door. This smithy was a lot cleaner, structure wise, and bigger than the one on Berk but all of the tools were the same. A large man with dark brown hair and hazel eyes, wearing glasses, was bent over the work bench, tinkering with something.

"Hi Oliphant," Merida greeted.

The man lifted his head and a large grin came to his face.

"Ah Merida, did ye need yer sword sharpened again?" he asked.

"No, I came tae introduce ye tae my friend. Oliphant, this is Alasdair. Alasdair, this is Oliphant."

"Hello, sir," Alasdair greeted.

"Hello, lad. I've heard about ye from the villagers 'round here. Ye're related tae Acair, huh? He's a great man and he's helped our clan many times before," Oliphant said.

"Oliphant, I remember ye sayin' ye needed help 'round the shop and Alasdair is really good at buildin' and repairin' things," Merida said.

"Really now? I have been needin' help what with new orders from all the stores for parts and it's that time of year tae go through the armory, repair armor, and anythin' else that broke while ye were gone," Oliphant explained, "Ye know how tae work these tools?"

"All of them," Alasdair said with pride.

"Alright, ye can prove it tae me when we do the work."

"What have ye been workin' on?" Merida asked, looking strangely at the device sitting on the work bench.

"Well, it's a multi user and it's supposed tae make preparin' food faster and it's supposed tae switch out the options. It tries tae switch but it's almost like there isn't anythin' attached tae the knife," Oliphant explained, rubbing his chin.

"Can I take a look?" Alasdair asked.

Oliphant nodded and Alasdair easily unscrewed the top that covered all of the gears on the inside, being careful of the sharp blade sticking out of the cover. There were many parts, all of which Alasdair knew the names of, and he tested each one to see what it did.

"To get it to pull in, you need to move these gears here and add another gear here," Alasdair said, moving the gears to their appropriate places, "Do you have another gear?"

Oliphant pulled open a drawer.

"What size?"

"A small one."

Merida watched as they tried a couple gears until they found the right one. Alasdair screwed the top back on and Oliphant brought out a fish, laying it on the table. He picked up the device by the handle and used it to cut open the fish smoothly and peel off the skin. Then he turned the knob and it switched to a fork. He continued turning the knob until it went back to the knife.

"It works! I never thought it would but it is! Thank ye Alasdair, I would be honored for ye tae be workin' with me," Oliphant said and gave Alasdair a bone crushing hug.

"You're welcome Oliphant," Alasdair gasped.

Merida and Hiccup left the smithy.

"Are people usually this friendly?" Hiccup asked, rubbing his ribs.

"Oliphant is but everyone else isn't as touchy feely so don't worry, ye won't be getting' anymore bone crushin' hugs," Merida said.

The two teens came to another shop, a clothing store. A nice lady with blonde hair and blue eyes stood behind the counter going through many different fabrics of all colors.

"Hello Princess Merida, who is this?" she asked.

"This is Alasdair. This is Lara, the clothing maker. Alasdair needs some clothes for his stay here with Acair."

"Ah, yes, I heard ye were stayin' with Acair and that ye were related tae him. Let me get my measurin' tape."

Lara went behind some curtains in the back of the small store and came back out with the measuring tape. She quickly measured Alasdair, wrote down the numbers on a piece of paper, and went to the wall of fabric behind the front counter.

"What colors do ye like?" Lara asked.

"Green and brown."

"Not a lot of people here choose green."

Lara pulled out several rolls of green and brown and laid them on the counter.

"Do these seem fine?"

"Yes, they're all very nice."

"These clothes should be ready by tomorrow mornin'. I luckily managed tae finish all those orders from everyone in the village before ye arrived," Lara said, "Have a good day now."

They waved good bye and walked out.

"Where to next?" Hiccup asked.

"The training field."

The training field was where all of the guards trained. It was large with many targets for archers and dummies for sword practice. There were many guards there, all practicing on something. There was one guard that caught Hiccup's eye though. He was in an obstacle course, easily chopping off dummies' heads with his sword in under a minute while almost hitting the bulls eyes on the targets set up here and there. He had black hair that was greying at the roots, piercing brown, almost black, eyes, and a glare that never seemed to leave his face. A thick white scar ran from his hair line all the way to his chin and Hiccup wondered how he'd gotten it.

"That's Captain Harailt, captain of the guard and one of the fiercest fighters we have but not one of the nicest. Definitely don't get on his bad side," Merida said.

"Princess Merida, who is this wee scrawny insect?" Harailt asked in annoyance.

Hiccup could tell that he wasn't going to like this guy.

"This is Alasdair. He's stayin' with Acair fer he's related tae Acair," Merida explained, a glare setting on her face.

"Another useless boy tae train."

"Actually, I'm gonna be workin' with Oliphant in the smithy," Alasdair said.

"Not a fighter?" Harailt almost asked tauntingly.

"I know how to fight but I'm better at making things."

"Show me first."

"Harailt, me and Alasdair should get goin' tae see the rest of the village," Merida said, grabbing Alasdair by his wrist.

Harailt looked reluctant to let the boy go but he did not want to get in trouble with the princess.

"Alright, Princess Merida, I'll let ye leave."

Merida almost dragged Hiccup away from the training field and she looked pretty ticked off.

"Are you okay?" Hiccup asked.

"Harailt can get on my nerves," Merida said.

"You're not the only one," Hiccup grumbled.

"At least ye didn't get stuck in a fight with him. Ye would've been chopped tae bits with his sword," Merida said.

"That wouldn't be a pleasant feeling."

The pair finally came to the castle's entrance and maids hustled

about, preparing something. Queen Elinor was walking about, talking with each maid that passed by.

"What's goin' on 'round here, Mum?" Merida questioned.

"We are settin' up a welcome home feast fer yer arrival back home. Have you liked the village, Alasdair?" Elinor asked.

"Yeah, most of the people were very nice," Alasdair replied.

"Good, good. Merida do not slouch," Elinor reprimanded.

"Ugh, Mum," Merida groaned.

Elinor just sighed.

"I better be off now tae make sure all of the preparations are finished on time," Elinor said, "Good day."

Merida began the tour of the DunBroch castle.

"I sorta remember this place from the last time I visited," Hiccup said, "This was the meeting room where our dads met up to discuss the trade."

"Do ye remember the way tae the secret trainin' field?"

"Sorta, but it's still a little fuzzy."

They finished the tour of the castle when it was close to sunset. The dinner would be finished soon and they would have to get to the large dining hall.

"Hey, Hiccup, come with me," Merida said, grabbing Hiccup's wrist.

No guards were around on the top levels where Hiccup and Merida were. Merida led Hiccup up a stairwell and to one of the towers' roofs which gave a perfect view of the sunset.

"Wow," Hiccup breathed, staring at the sunset.

"It's beautiful, isn't it?" Merida asked, leaning on the stone railing.

Hiccup leaned on the stone next to her, staring at that beautiful face of hers.

"Not as beautiful as you."

Merida was surprised by the compliment and blushed. Hiccup gently grabbed her chin and turned her face to face his.

'_You've got this Hiccup, don't weasel out of it now._'

Slowly, they closed their eyes and their lips met. They each felt like they had electricity running through their bodies as Hiccup pulled Merida closer and she ran her fingers through his black hair. When they came up for air, Hiccup wrapped his arms around Merida and she did the same to Hiccup.

"We better get going before they start looking for us," Hiccup suggested.

"You might wanna fix yer hair first," Merida chortled.

Hiccup smoothed out his mussed up hair and they headed for the dining room. People hadn't begun to show up yet so at least they wouldn't bring any unwanted attention to themselves.

"Everything's almost ready," Elinor said to Merida and Alasdair, "Since ye're the princess, ye'll come in last but ye'll need an escort."

"I can escort her, ma'am," Alasdair said.

"Thank you, Alasdair," Elinor said, "You will enter from up at the top of the stairs when they say Merida's name and yer elbows will be linked."

The queen left to make sure everything else was ready and Hiccup and Merida headed for the stairs. From the top, you could see the whole room how large it was. This room was only a little smaller than the Great Hall back on Berk.

"Guards, open the doors!" Elinor commanded and the two guards standing by the door, one being Acair, opened the large doors.

Villagers and guards temporarily off duty flowed in and went to tables to sit at. They slowly filled the room until there was one table left, the royal table.

"Quiet, quiet down now," Elinor said loudly, but she didn't yell for that would be unladylike, and everyone silenced, bringing their attention to the queen, "Thank ye everyone fer coming tae this feast but now fer Princess Merida."

The queen dramatically swept her arms to the top of the stairs. Everyone looked at the top of the stairs and applauded as Merida and Alasdair linked arms and walked down the stairs. Of course, Merida didn't do it slow like a princess should and she jumped past the last step, almost making Alasdair trip since they still had their arms locked.

"Sorry," Merida whispered.

Alasdair nodded and they unlinked arms when they came to the table. Before Alasdair could pull out Merida's chair, she had already pulled it out and sat down.

"And now the two people that escorted the princess back home safe and sound, Acair and Alasdair."

The crowd applauded again and Alasdair blushed slightly. He wasn't used to the attention. He took the chair next to Merida and Acair sat next to him. Merida was smirking at his blush and that made Alasdair blush a deeper shade of red. Food was passed about the tables and it was all very delicious and full of flavor, unlike the food on Berk. Everyone ate until they were full and soon, Fergus brought out the

beer and a lot of the men got drunk, though they would regret it when they got hangovers in the morning. Though it was absolutely funny watching the drunken men make complete fools of themselves. Merida chortled when she saw her father stumbling about and then trip right on his face. Alasdair laughed right along with her.

"A princess does not chortle at her drunken father," Elinor said, somehow not laughing at her husband's state.

Acair knew when he had enough beer and managed to be one of the few men who were still somber. By midnight, most of the villagers had left except for the ones who had passed out a couple hours before, Fergus being one of those few. Merida's triplet brothers had passed out from their sugar rush around the same time Fergus had and Merida and Alasdair were tired but they still had to get Toothless to the place Merida said would be safe. While Elinor talked with a few guards on what to do with Fergus, Merida whispered to Hiccup,

"We'll meet up at the stables and then sneak tae the docks tae get Toothless. We'll get a ways from the docks and then fly tae the spot where we're hidin' Toothless. We'll have tae walk back tae the village but it shouldn't take that long."

"Alright."

Elinor walked Merida to her room and Hiccup went with Acair. On the way to Acair's house were the stables and Angus lifted his head at the sound of their footsteps.

"Hey Angus, I'm gonna hang out with you for a few minutes," Hiccup said, petting the horse on his muzzle.

"My house is the only one o'er here so ye won't have any trouble findin' it. There's only two guards at the docks so it should be easy tae sneak passed them," Acair explained.

"And Toothless should be easy to sneak because of his black scales," Hiccup said.

Acair walked off and Hiccup waited, rubbing Angus' neck until he saw Merida walking up in her usual dark teal dress, a quiver attached to her back, and her bow in her hand.

"Ye ready?" she asked.

"Of course."

They walked to the docks, keeping their eyes open and listening intently.

"Acair said there were only two guards," Hiccup whispered as they hunkered down behind a barrel.

"Acair's ship is right there so c'mon," Merida said.

They ran silently to the ship and came below deck, hurrying to the stable where Toothless should be.

"Toothless?" Hiccup asked and poked his head into the room.

The ebony dragon lifted his head and immediately ran to Hiccup, knocking the boy to the ground and attacking his freckled face with his tongue.

"I missed you too, bud."

Toothless got off Hiccup and nudged Merida, who scratched him on the head.

"Hey there Toothless."

"Let's get you off the boat," Hiccup said.

They walked back until they reached the top of the stairs leading to the deck.

"The guard is just passing," Hiccup whispered back to Merida.

"Good."

When the guard passed, they hurried off the boat and ran to the village, thankfully not running into any guards.

"Let's get outta the village in case there're any guards or villagers up," Merida whispered.

Hiccup nodded and they headed to the other side of the village, the side closer to the forest. Toothless was curious of the village with all of its interesting smells and buildings but he knew to be wary in case the Scottish had the same reaction to dragons like the Vikings did. Toothless lifted his head higher and turned his ears. He heard footsteps and smelled another human. He jumped in front of Merida and Hiccup, listening for the other human.

"What is it?" Merida asked.

"It must be another guard coming. We might have to take off now since there's nowhere to hide in this alley," Hiccup whispered, mounting onto Toothless.

Merida followed him and Toothless took to the skies, disappearing from human eye sight. The guard Toothless had smelled shined his lamp into the alley and then he saw the footprints on the ground. He kneeled down, scooping some of the dirt up and sniffing it.

"Night Fury."

He stood up, dropping the dirt, and wiped his hand on his kilt. He narrowed his eyes at the other footprints but he wasn't able to pick up a smell. He smeared all of the footprints so no one else would find them and continued on with his patrol.

"It's right there," Merida pointed to a clearing through the trees.

Toothless landed in the clearing and Hiccup and Merida got off. It was a cove but much larger and with a way out that didn't face the village. There was a large lake and Hiccup could see it brimming with fish. Toothless' eyes widened at the sight of the fish and he walked

over, sticking his head in the water and coming out with three fish in his mouth.

"I think he'll be happy here," Hiccup said, smiling at his dragon's happiness.

"There's plenty of fish and room so I think he will," Merida said, leaning her head on Hiccup's shoulder.

Hiccup wrapped his arm around her waist and they watched as Toothless ate his fill. When the dragon was done, he walked over to the couple with sad eyes. He knew they had to leave now and leave him all alone again.

"Don't worry, bud, we'll visit as often as possible," Hiccup reassured, giving the dragon a hug.

"We'll be back," Merida said, also giving Toothless a hug.

They began their walk back. Merida could tell Hiccup was sad for leaving his best friend behind again, the sadness was pretty much radiating off him.

"Toothless'll be okay. Nobody ever comes out here for fear of Mor'du attackin' them," Merida reassured.

"I know but I'm still worried that something might happen," Hiccup said.

"Of course ye'll still worry. Everyone does. I was worried when ye left tae kill the Monstrous Nightmare."

The rest of the walk was spent in a calm silence. The managed to sneak back to the back of the castle where Merida had snuck out.

"I'll see ye taemorrow after my lessons," Merida said, placing a quick kiss on Hiccup's lips and giving him a hug, "Night."

"Night Merida."

Hiccup walked off to Acair's house and opened the door. Acair sat at the table, whittling at a block of wood that sat in his hands.

"I see ye successfully got yer dragon tae the hidin' spot," Acair said, setting the block of wood on the table.

"Yeah, he seems to like it there. There's a lot of room and a large lake full of fish," Hiccup explained, yawning.

"Yer room is the second tae the left," Acair said, motioning to the hall with his small knife.

"Thanks Acair," Hiccup yawned, walking down the hall.

"Ye're welcome," Acair said.

Hiccup took off his boots and set them by the bed. He didn't care that he was still in all of his clothes and he just collapsed under the covers. The bed was better than the wood one he had at home.

Speaking of home, Hiccup wondered how Gobber was.

Stoick was angry. His son had flown off on a NIGHT FURY with some girl, he couldn't tell because they took off so fast, and Gobber said he lost them in the smoke the Night Fury had caused. The chief punched the stone wall in the Great Hall, leaving a deep, deep crater. In his other hand was his son's, no, Hiccup's helmet. Hiccup wasn't his son anymore. Hiccup had betrayed his people and Stoick couldn't have a son like that for their future chief.

****A/N:** Long chapter but I know most of my readers like those. Leave any tips or any comments you had in the comment section below!**

15. Chapter 15

Chapter 15:

Third Person's P.O.V.

Hiccup heated the sword and placed it on the anvil, grabbing a hammer to bend it back into place. Oliphant had told him that Merida's brothers had gotten a hold of that sword a couple months ago and hit a guard over the head with it because they heard he had a really hard skull and it could bend swords so the sword ended up with the shape of the guard's bent into it. The brothers were grounded and the armory was off limits or Elinor and Fergus would take away desserts for two months.

"Do they always get into trouble?" Hiccup asked, sticking the now fixed sword into the water.

"Most of the time. Sometimes they behave like little angels but then ye give them sugar and they go nuts," Oliphant said.

The door opened and in walked a guard.

"King Fergus requested that we have ye two train today. He says we must have everyone do some trainin' at least three times a week, includin' the shop owners," the guard said.

"Alright, let's go Alasdair," Oliphant said.

Hiccup followed Oliphant and the guard to the training field. Captain Harailt was going up against a smaller guard. The smaller guard was struggling against Harailt's strength, speed, and skill. Harailt, in the blink of an eye, knocked the guard's sword out of his hands and knocked him on his back, holding the point of his sword right to the guard's neck. He pulled his sword back and walked away. The guard got to his feet, grabbing his sword off the ground and putting it in his sheath, rubbing his neck.

"Wow," Hiccup said, feeling slightly bad for the guard.

"Yeah, that happens every day. At least he didn't injury the poor man," Oliphant said.

"He injures some of his own men?" Hiccup asked.

"Yeah, Harailt thinks it'll teach them a lesson," Oliphant said, "Let's go tae the archery fer now."

Hiccup grabbed a bow and a quiver full of arrows from the shed of weapons and found an unused target. He did as Merida told him all those years ago, pull it back, relax, aim, take a deep breathe, let it out slowly, and let go. The arrow flew and hit the bull's eye. He did it again, and again, and again, until he heard somebody behind him.

"At least ye can do archery. I thought ye were completely useless."

That word stung, that word he thought he'd never be called again. Hiccup turned around and glared at Captain Harailt, the bigger man also glaring.

"I can do more than just archery," Hiccup said.

"Then show me boy, one on one," Harailt said.

Hiccup nodded and Oliphant looked surprised.

"Alasdair, ye don't wanna do this," Oliphant said, placing his large calloused hand on Hiccup's shoulder.

"I can do it Oliphant," Hiccup said, walking over to the sword fighting field where Harailt was waiting.

Hiccup went through the swords until he found one that felt right in his hands. He turned towards Harailt and got into a ready position. Harailt did the same and a crowd slowly gathered to watch. Oliphant watched worriedly. He knew what Harailt could do and all Hiccup had seen was what had happened when he got here this morning. Harailt made the first move, running forward with a swipe of his sword. Hiccup ducked to the side but Harailt saw this coming and tripped Hiccup. The black haired boy tumbled and dropped his sword. Harailt ran with his sword ready but Hiccup moved out of the way. Hiccup grabbed his sword and parried Harailt's hit. Their swords clashed a couple times before their swords locked and they were pushing against each other. Merida came running over and pushed her way through the crowd, gasping when she saw Hiccup up against Harailt.

"Hi-Alasdair, what are ye doin?" Merida asked herself and found Oliphant, "What's goin' on?"

"Harailt challenged Alasdair tae a fight and I warned Alasdair that he didn't wanna do this but he didn't listen," Oliphant explained.

Hiccup was struggling to hold his own and Harailt wasn't even breaking a sweat. Harailt moved really fast to try and strike Hiccup's side and Hiccup barely dodged it. Harailt unleashed a series of really fast moves and Hiccup had trouble keeping up. Finally, Harailt got Hiccup on the arm and knocked his feet out from under him and Hiccup fell on his back, the breath knocked out of him.

"Still so useless," Harailt grumbled and spit next to Hiccup's head.

Harailt turned away and Hiccup sat up. Merida and Oliphant rushed over to him and Oliphant pulled the boy up by his arm. Hiccup gasped slightly and pushed Oliphant's hand off. A little blood flowed out of the cut Hiccup now had on his arm and Merida rolled up his sleeve.

"Let's get ye tae Acair so he can take care of that," Merida said, "We'll see ye later Oliphant."

"Good bye Merida and Alasdair."

The cut was about half an inch deep and stung slightly. Merida knocked on Acair's front door and the older man opened the door. He saw Hiccup's cut and motioned with his head for them to follow him inside.

"Sit at the table," Acair instructed and he went down the hall to a cabinet.

Hiccup sat down but Merida stayed standing.

"What were ye thinkin' Hiccup? Goin' up against our best and strongest fighter is probably one of the stupidest things ye can do!" Merida exclaimed.

"He got onto my nerves too much."

"Hiccup, ye're not the rash type and ye've never been," Merida said, "It was somethin' else, wasn't it?"

Acair came back with some gauze, a rag, and a brown bottle full of some type of liquid. Acair poured a little bit of the liquid onto the rag and dabbed that onto the cut. Hiccup flinched as the stinging got worse.

"What was it Hiccup?"

Hiccup was reluctant to tell but he said it quietly, almost a whisper.

"He called me useless. I thought that once I left Berk, I wouldn't be called that anymore."

After cleaning the cut thoroughly, Acair tied some gauze around it.

"Look lad, there'll always be somebody pickin' on ye," Acair said.

"Thank you Acair," Hiccup said, his voice dripping with sarcasm.

"Ye didn't let me finish. Ye just have tae ignore them."

"Thanks Acair," Hiccup said, no sarcasm this time.

Merida and Hiccup left to go see Toothless. The dragon was laying in the sunlight on a pile of rocks but he looked sad.

"Hey Toothless."

The Night Fury lifted his head and happiness filled his eyes. He leapt off the pile of rocks and tackled both of the teens, licking them in the face.

"We missed you too bud," Hiccup said, nudging Toothless so he would get off.

Toothless sniffed the gauze on Hiccup's arm and growled, his pupils narrowing to slits. The ebony dragon looked ready to go kill something but Hiccup placed his hand on Toothless' snout, ceasing the growling.

"Calm down bud, it's okay. I was just being impulsive," Hiccup said, rubbing Toothless' forehead.

Toothless calmed down and they all hung out there until sun down when they had to leave. Toothless whined and nudged Hiccup and Merida. Ever since he started spending time with Hiccup and Merida, he didn't like to be alone anymore and he worried something would happen to both of them.

"We're coming back tomorrow," Merida reassured.

They left after Toothless gave them good bye licks and Hiccup grabbed Merida's hand. Leaving Toothless was still hard for Hiccup and he knew it would never get easier. Hiccup walked Merida back to the castle and hugged her because there was no one around.

"I'll see you tomorrow," Hiccup said and placed a light kiss on her lips.

"Good night Hiccup," Merida said.

"Night."

Merida walked inside and Hiccup walked to Acair's house, petting Angus as he passed the stables. Acair was finishing dinner when Hiccup walked in.

"Hm, smells good Acair,"

"It's my mother's famous chicken soup," Acair said, putting some into a wooden bowl and handing it to Hiccup, who sat down at the table.

Acair joined him and they ate dinner with some conversation. Hiccup told Acair what he fixed in the shop and the tale of Merida's triplet brothers and the sword.

"I remember that," Acair chuckled, "King Fergus and Merida laughed and Queen Elinor was so mad."

Hiccup helped Acair clean up and went to bed, peeling off most his clothes except his undergarments and climbed under the covers, slipping into sleep.

16. Chapter 16

****A/N:** Hey guys, just wanted to say that anything from the Brave

movie and the HTTYD movie I do not own. The only things I own are the plot of this story, Lara, Oliphant, Acair, and Captain Harailt. Now you may continue reading.**

Chapter 16:

Third Person's P.O.V.

It had been a long day for Hiccup; training seemed to drag on thanks to Harailt saying he needed to learn new exercises and Harailt made him start over from the beginning of each exercise if he got it wrong, when he got to the smithy there was a humongous pile of broken weapons and Oliphant said it was from Merida's brothers, and he had to see Lara after that to order some new clothes seeing as most of his were ripped from training or ruined from the shop because Lara was still working on getting the right leather for a work apron.

"Ye look tired," Merida commented, her teeth clenched.

"Long day. What's wrong?" Hiccup asked.

It wasn't good when Merida was angry.

"I'll tell ye when we get tae the cove."

They mounted Angus and headed for the cove where Toothless was waiting. He tackled them both and licked their faces but he could tell something was up. He whined as Merida sat down on a log, crossing her arms and glaring at nothing in particular.

"You can tell me now," Hiccup said, sitting next to her and taking her hand in his.

Merida stood up and angrily began swinging her sword around while talking, Hiccup and Toothless having to duck a couple times to avoid it.

"It's my mum. She sent letters tae the other three clans tae compete fer my hand. She told me it's what I've been preparin' fer my whole life but really, it's what she's been preparin' me fer and I told her she can't make me. What do I do?" Merida asked.

Hiccup was surprised and slightly angry with the queen. It may be tradition to marry your children to other clan's children but Elinor had to see that Merida was not ready and he loved her anyway!

"When are they coming?" Hiccup asked, looking Merida in the face.

"Tomorrow afternoon, I think," Merida said.

"Do you know the rules of the betrothal?"

"No, Mum never explained it tae me. I'll learn them tomorrow when the games are about tae begin."

"I'll see if I can learn something from Acair when we get back. If I can't figure anything out by the end of the games, we'll sneak back here and we'll fly as far away as we can. I want to be with you Merida because I love you and I'm not about to let some suitor steal

you from me," Hiccup said and kissed Merida.

Merida, of course, kissed back and when they broke apart, Hiccup, Merida, and Toothless hugged until they had to go back. When they got back to the stables, Merida hugged Hiccup for a little while before she snuck back to her room. Hiccup walked into Acair's house and sat down at the table. The older man noticed right away what was going on.

"So ye heard about the suitors?" Acair asked.

"Yeah. What are the rules for the betrothal?" Hiccup asked.

"Only the first born from each clan can compete in the games and be able tae win the princess' hand. It's customary tae let the princess choose the challenge that the suitors compete in," Acair explained.

"Would me being the heir to my father's tribe count as a first born that can compete for the princess' hand?" Hiccup asked.

"Of course. It doesn't say anythin' in the rules about no enemy suitors allowed and they can't hurt ye if ye're part of the games," Acair explained.

The gears turned in Hiccup's head as he formulated a plan for tomorrow.

"Thanks Acair," Hiccup said, a smile stretching his lips, "Is there a way to wash this dye out of my hair?"

"Rub some of that oil all over yer hair and rinse it out. Yer hair should be back tae normal," Acair said, pointing to a bottle of oil on the table.

Queen Elinor woke Merida early to get ready. After a quick bath, Elinor had Merida dress. After that, everything was pretty much painful for Merida; the tightening of the corset, her mother ripping a brush through her hair, and putting on the actual dress. After that, they began to head downstairs. Hiccup was downstairs with Acair, wearing a cloak to hide his hair since it wasn't black anymore, and they were waiting by the chairs of the royal family since they were assigned guard duty there.

"Aye, they're a comin'!" a guard peeking out the front door called.

"Places everyone, places," Elinor said and everyone in the large room scrambled to their spots.

Hiccup watched as Merida had trouble sitting in her chair because her dress was too tight. Her mother motioned to sit up and she did with an annoyed look on her face. Merida pulled out a curl but her mother immediately fixed it, making Merida angrier. As Elinor sat down, Merida pulled the curl back out and looked back at Hiccup. He waved and she waved back. She wondered why he was wearing a cloak but she never got a chance to speak to him with her mother watching over her like a hawk. The guard announced the clans but didn't get to finish because the clans pushed open the door, knocking the guard down and the other to wake up, looking around frantically while holding his

spear upside down. The three clan leaders stood at the front and Hiccup observed them. He noticed the one on the far left was much shorter than the others and he called over one of his men to bring him a stool. Everyone cheered and thumped their spears on the ground while other men played their bag pipes. When King Fergus stood, everything went silent.

"So, here we are. Uh, the four clans, uh, gathering," Fergus said, his arms out in front of him.

The man clearly had no idea what he was supposed to say and then Elinor stood, raising her arms.

"The presentation of the suitors," the queen said, Fergus trying to say it at the same time but he was a little late.

The clans roared and Merida shook her head and looked at Hiccup. With a silent communication through their eyes, Hiccup said he had a plan. Merida understood and brightened a little. Fergus listed the names of the clans of who would first present. Macintosh, the ones who were small with flowing locks.

"Yer majesty, I present my heir and sire, who defended our land from the Northern invaders and with his own sword, vanquished a thousand foes," Lord Macintosh said, his son spinning his sword in a circle and catching it, flexing his pectorals and trying to woo Merida.

Hiccup rolled his eyes and silently gagged and Merida did the same, trying to pull her cap over her eyes. Next was MacGuffin, the really big, buff, blonde ones.

"Yer majesty, I present my eldest son," Lord MacGuffin said.

A large awkward looking boy who looked like his father stepped up.

"Who scuffled the Viking long ships and with his bare hands, vanquished two thousand foes," Lord MacGuffin finished and his son broke a thick log in half.

Hiccup remembered a little while back when part of his tribe ran into the MacGuffins and the ending wasn't pretty. Most of the tribe was injured but more of theirs were injured and some close to death.

"Dingwall!" the clan cheered as their leader adjusted his belt.

Lord Dingwall stepped off his stool and said,

"I present my only son."

He motioned to an incredibly tall, dark, muscular, scarred man who was maybe two to three times as big as Lord Dingwall. Everyone stared in surprise at the large man as he breathed in and the straps around his chest groaned.

"Who was beseeched by ten thousand Romans and he took out a whole armada single handedly. With one arm-" Lord Dingwall stopped angrily and pulled out a small scrawny boy, his true son, from behind the

large man, "With one arm, he was stealing the ship and with the other, he held his mighty sword and struck down a whole attacking fleet."

"Lies!" somebody from the Macintosh screamed.

"What? I heard that."

Lord Dingwall marched over to the Macintosh clan and searched the crowd for any guilty victims.

"Say it to my face," Lord Dingwall challenged, "Or are ye scared simperin' jackanips, 'fraid to muss up yer pretty hair."

"At least we have hair," Lord Macintosh said back.

"And all our teeth," Lord MacGuffin joined in.

MacGuffin said something really fast that no one could understand.

"And we don't hide under bridges ye grumpy old troll," Lord Macintosh said, mimicking a troll from fairy tales.

Hiccup knew that would set the old man off. He remembered once when a villager called Gobber a troll. That villager was shown Gobber's weapon collection and how they all worked. Let's just say that villager never messed with Gobber again.

"Ye wanna laugh, huh? Wee Dingwall!"

Dingwall turned his head and became alert. He leapt at Lord Macintosh and bit his neck with his gopher teeth and the rest of the room burst into chaos. Hiccup was surprised by the Scottish's behavior. He only expected Vikings to get into fights like this. Merida looked annoyed and Fergus cheered everyone on. He looked at his wife but she gave him a look that said to stop it all.

"Alright," Fergus said and stood from his chair, "Gluttons!"

Everyone stopped fighting and even the bagpipe players stopped.

"Now, that's all done. Ye've had yer go at each other, show a little decorum and no more fighting!"

Lord Dingwall screamed and the fighting continued. Hiccup ducked to avoid being hit by a sheep that was thrown across the room. Fergus decided that the best way to end things was to join in the fray. This went on for about a minute before Queen Elinor stood up and walked towards the crowd. Everyone that she passed that was fighting stopped and bowed to her. They made an aisle for her as she walked back to where all the clan leaders, including Fergus, were fighting. They stopped and she grabbed Fergus and Lord Dingwall by an ear while Macintosh was under Fergus' arm and somebody was holding onto Lord MacGuffin. The clan leaders apologized while Fergus walked back to his seat like a dog that did something bad.

"In accordance with our laws, by the rights of our heritage, only the

first born of each of the great leaders may be presented as champion. And thus, compete for the hand of the princess of DunBroch," the queen announced.

"First born," Merida whispered, looking back at Hiccup.

Hiccup nodded his head to her as a 'yes, I know this and it's part of my plan'.

"To win the fair maiden, they must prove their worth by feats of strength or arms in the games. It is customary that the challenge be determined by the princess herself."

"Archery!" Merida yelled, managing to stand from her seat.

Everyone stared at her. Merida quickly composed herself and said in a princess manner,

"I choose archery."

"Excuse me Queen Elinor but we have one more suitor," Acair said and everyone looked over at the old guard.

Hiccup walked over to the space next to the Dingwall clan and removed his hood, everyone in the room gasped.

"I am Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third, heir to the Hairy Hooligan clan and I am here to participate for the princess' hand," Hiccup said.

"Yer majesty, he can't participate in the games!" Lord Macintosh exclaimed.

"There is nothin' in the rules about Viking heirs not bein' able tae participate in the games," Merida objected, "Therefer, he can participate."

"The princess is correct," Elinor said, "Hiccup, where is the rest of your tribe?"

"They could not stay with me Queen Elinor, there have been too many dragon raids recently on Berk," Hiccup lied.

"I am sorry to hear that Hiccup," Elinor said, "Let the games begin!"

Acair escorted Merida to her seat and told her Hiccup's plan on the way.

"I have another plan. I can participate since I'm the first born of DunBroch," Merida said.

"I would go with Hiccup's plan first just in case somethin' goes wrong, ye can take his place in the games since there's no rules against it," Acair said.

"Alright," Merida said.

Merida sat down in her chair next to her father and a horn was blown, signaling the start of the archery competition. The three clan

leaders stood in front of the DunBroch royalty, awaiting orders.

"Archers to yer marks!" Queen Elinor called and Fergus repeated what she said, "And may the lucky arrow find its target."

Young MacGuffin was up first. The bow was small for him and he had a large amount of muscle so he barely had to pull the string back. He let go and the arrow barely hit the edge of the target. His father face palmed and the other lords laughed.

"I bet he wishes he was tossin' cabers," Merida whispered to her father.

"Or holdin' up bridges."

Young Macintosh pulled back his bow dramatically and whipped his hair back, making the girls behind him scream. He let the arrow go and it missed the red circle by an inch.

"No!" young Macintosh screamed and began to have a temper tantrum.

"Good arm," Merida commented after he threw his bow to the back of the crowd.

"And such lovely flowing locks," Fergus said.

"Fergus," Elinor said angrily.

"What?" he asked and Merida rolled her eyes.

Next was Dingwall. He tried to grab an arrow from the quiver on his hip but ended up spinning around in a circle and spilling most of them out.

"Oh, wee lamb," Merida said.

He knocked the arrow but it wouldn't rest against the bow and kept moving.

"Oh come on," Fergus said impatiently, "Shoot boy!"

Young Dingwall jumped in shock and let the arrow go. It flew and hit the target dead center. The Dingwall clan cheered and the other clans groaned. They had no chance. Lord Dingwall was about to go up and congratulate his boy but was stopped by Lord MacGuffin.

"Wait, there's still the Viking boy."

Everyone fell silent as they watched Hiccup pull out two arrows and easily knock them.

"He can't possibly hit the center with two," Lord Dingwall said and turned to the queen, "Queen Elinor is this allowed?"

"There are no rules against how many arrows ye use; it only matters if he can make them both hit the center of the target."

Hiccup followed Merida's instructions; pull it back, relax, aim, take

a deep breathe, let it out slowly, and let go. The two arrows went flying and everything seemed to slow down. When they hit, they were both exactly center.

"Well, he did it. what do ye think of marryin' Vikin'?" Fergus asked.

"Not bad," Merida said.

"Our winner, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third!" Elinor said.

Few people cheered and everyone headed back to the castle for a celebratory feast. Merida hugged Hiccup when he walked up to her and he hugged back, causing some confusion in the crowd.

"How did ye do it lad?" Fergus asked.

"Do what?"

"Hit the center of the target with two arrows. I've never seen somebody do it before," Fergus said.

"Lots of practice," Hiccup said and Fergus patted him on the back, almost knocking Hiccup over.

Everyone was back in the large room in the castle but then Captain Harailt came rushing into the room and up to Queen Elinor and King Fergus, dragging Acair behind him. The older man looked beat up. Harailt threw the man to the floor in front of the king and queen.

"Captain Harailt, what did ye do?" Elinor asked, glaring at the man.

"I found out he was a traitor. He helped this Viking sneak onto our island as what he said was a relative of his," Harailt said, "Hiccup was actually Alasdair."

Everyone that had been on the island when Alasdair came gasped. Hiccup's and Merida's eyes widened.

"Guards, grab the Viking and the traitor and bring them here," Elinor ordered.

Two guards grabbed Acair and two more grabbed Hiccup.

"Leave him alone!" Merida said, grabbing onto one guard's arm but he pushed her off.

They forced the two to their knees in front of the king.

"Acair, ye were one of my most loyal guards and yet, ye let this Vikin' into my kingdom and endangered my people," Elinor said angrily, "Ye endangered my daughter."

"Queen Elinor, I remembered seein' Hiccup and Merida playin' once when they were small. I let yer daughter go and see Hiccup and after seein' the love between the two, I knew they were meant tae be and that not even their parents' rivalry could keep them apart," Acair said, "Yer daughter loves the boy."

"Merida, ye betrayed me tae?" Elinor said, "We'll talk later. Guards, take these two down tae the dungeon and tomorrow, we'll execute them."

"No! Mum, don't do this!" Merida yelled, running up and put herself between her mother and Acair and Hiccup.

"Merida, this is not yer decision," Elinor said.

Harailt grabbed Merida and held her back as Hiccup and Acair were taken to the dungeon.

"Hiccup!" Merida screamed, "Acair!"

"Merida, we'll be okay!" Hiccup called back, "Remember!"

Merida struggled and glared at her mother and then at Harailt. She elbowed him in the gut with both elbows, causing him to grunt but not let go.

Hiccup and Acair were roughly shoved into a small cell that was dim and damp. Hiccup gently moved Acair so he was on his back and looked over him for any injuries, like Gobber had taught him to do before. There were bruises already forming, a large cut across his forehead, two broken ribs, and his left arm was broken but there was intestinal damage too. Acair coughed, blood trickling out the corner of his mouth.

"Hiccup, come closer," Acair wheezed.

Hiccup leaned closer so his ear was next to the old man's mouth.

"I have a spare key fer this cell *cough* attached tae the inner part of my belt. When it gets dark *cough* and there's no guards use it tae get out and *cough cough* leave. The guards come around every fifteen minutes *cough* but it'll take *cough* five tae get out of the dungeon," Acair said.

"What do I do after that?" Hiccup asked.

"Make peace between *cough cough cough* Vikins and DunBroch," Acair said, "Ye're a smart boy so *cough cough* I know ye'll know what tae do."

Acair went into a large coughing fit, more blood coming out. When he stopped Hiccup spoke.

"Thanks Acair, for all the help."

"It was my pleasure lad."

Acair stopped breathing and Hiccup closed his eye lids. The tears flowed down his cheeks and landed on the old guard's face. Hiccup didn't want anyone to die because of this. Hiccup fell asleep at some point from his crying and looked out the barred window. The sun had just finished setting so Hiccup grabbed the keys for the cell and waited for the guard to pass. He unlocked the cell door and ran quietly for the exit. He had to get to Merida and then they would leave on Toothless to, well, where ever was safe. He snuck through

the castle, ducking into dark corners and crevices whenever castle staff walked by. When he got to Merida's room, he pushed it open but she wasn't in there. Hiccup closed the door and went down the hall to the next door. There were sounds coming from behind it, a scream and a roar.

"Merida!" Hiccup exclaimed and opened the door.

Merida had her back up against this dresser thing on one side of the room and a large black bear standing on its hind legs on the other side. It turned towards Hiccup and roared and was about to attack him when Merida ran in between the both of them.

"Mum wait! Don't hurt him," Merida said, holding her hand out to the bear.

"Wait, Queen Elinor?" Hiccup asked.

The bear glared at him but listened to her daughter.

"What is going on Merida?" Hiccup asked, taking a step towards the red head but Elinor growled and made him stop.

"I asked a witch fer a spell and turned my mum intae a bear," Merida said, "We have tae get her outta here Hiccup. If my father saw her and ye he would kill ye both. And how did ye get out?"

"Acair had a spare key on his belt."

"Where is Acair?" Merida asked.

Hiccup looked down at the floor and then looked in Merida's eyes.

"He had some internal damage that couldn't be treated."

Merida wiped the tears from her eyes and Hiccup hugged her.

"Let's get my mum outta here before Dad smells her," Merida said, grabbing a bow and sword from the corner of the room.

Hiccup noticed that the sword was hers but the bow wasn't. He decided he'd ask about it later. They all left the room, Elinor staying in between Merida and Hiccup as they headed down the hall. They heard guards running up the stairway and took off running to the maids' work area down below the castle. It was the only safe way out without getting caught. They came down into the maids' room and found Merida's triplet brothers messing with some of Fergus' hunting trophies.

"Boys, I need yer help. Go distract Dad and the others so we can get Mum safely tae the forest," Merida said.

The boys looked at her and crossed their arms.

"Fine, I'll give ye my desserts fer a week."

They shook their heads.

"Okay, a month."

They smiled and nodded and headed upstairs. Merida, Hiccup, and Elinor headed out the door and rushed to the forest. Merida and Elinor had made it past the forest line but Hiccup was knocked to the ground by something extremely heavy.

"Got ye little Vikin' pest," a voice whispered in his ear.

Captain Harailt. Hiccup struggled under the weight above him but it was no use.

"Get off of him!"

Hiccup heard an arrow fly past his head and drive itself into Harailt's arm. Harailt yelled from the pain and got off of him. He scrambled to his feet but his arm was grabbed and wrenched behind his back, almost to the point of breaking. Hiccup gasped at the pain and kicked behind him, causing Harailt to grunt and let go of his arm. He sprinted into the forest and Merida and Elinor joined him. They ran to the cove where Toothless raised his head in alarm and growled at the sight of Elinor.

"She's with us bud and we have to go farther into the forest, away from the village," Hiccup said.

Elinor also growled at the Night Fury, but Merida stopped her.

"C'mon Mum," Merida said and climbed onto her mother's back.

Harailt came running into the cove, his bow knocked with an arrow. Toothless growled and turned towards the man.

"Merida, go!" Hiccup said and Elinor ran off into the forest.

"Ah, the Night Fury, I knew ye were around here somewhere and it turns out ye're werkin' with the Vikin'," Harailt said, "I can't wait tae kill ye and hang ye on my wall and this time I will get ye."

Hiccup was confused for a second but he began to run over to Toothless. Harailt aimed at Hiccup and shot. He barely missed and Hiccup got onto Toothless and they took off into the black of night. They flew over the tree tops until they found Elinor and Merida and landed. The two had gotten pretty far away into a small clearing that seemed safe for the night.

"Hiccup, ye're okay," Merida said, wrapping her arms around him.

"Of course I'm okay, I've got Toothless here helping me."

Toothless nudged the both of them and Elinor snuffed to attract their attention. Toothless glared at the bear and she glared back.

"You two are gonna have to get along," Hiccup said.

They both snuffed and that's when it began to rain. They found some old wood and built a type of fort thing to keep them sorta dry.

"I will get ye back tae normal Mum," Merida said as her mother

drifted off to sleep.

"Did the witch say anything?" Hiccup said.

"Fate be changed look inside mend the bond torn by pride. I don't know what it means," Merida said, "and the spell will remain permanent after the second sunrise."

"We'll think about it in the morning," Hiccup said, "We'll have to do a lot of traveling."

Hiccup wrapped his arms around Merida and they fell asleep.

****A/N:** It's so long! Sorry it took long to type and I have another story that I posted today that I'll be working on if I can't think of anything for this story. It's a How to Train Your Dragon story called It's Back. Check it out if you want! ******

17. Chapter 17

****A/N:** I am super-duper extra sorry for being gone so long! As a gift, I will try to make the moments sweet as sugar possible and to write a long chapter because you guys deserve it for waiting so long.******

Chapter 17:

Third Person's P.O.V.

Hiccup woke up by being dragged from behind.

"Let me go!" Hiccup exclaimed, causing Toothless and Merida to wake up.

"Mum, what are ye doin'?" Merida asked as her and Toothless immediately got to their feet.

Elinor had the back of Hiccup's shirt in her mouth and she had managed to pick him up slightly off the ground because of him being very lite and she was running towards the river they were next to. She tossed Hiccup in when she got to the edge and watched him become completely soaked to the bone with the cold water. Toothless tackled her from behind and they both went in too.

"Toothless, no!" Hiccup yelled, getting to his feet and wrapping his arms around the Night Fury's neck, trying to pull him off the bear.

Merida grabbed around the dragon's waist and pulled, the two teens successfully getting Toothless off. He growled at Elinor and she growled back.

"Stop it, both of ye!" Merida yelled, standing in between the two growling animals, "Mum, we do not throw people in the river and Toothless, she did not seriously harm Hiccup, ok?"

"Look bud, I'm ok," Hiccup said, kneeling in front of the dragon to show he wasn't hurt, "I'm thinking that she was just angry."

Elinor nodded her head and when Hiccup tried to step towards Merida, she stepped in front of her daughter and growled, baring her teeth. Toothless did the same back to her and then his pupils widened when he saw something move in the water. Everyone watched as Toothless dove his head in lightning fast and came back out with a large salmon in his mouth and a smile on his face. Hiccup and Merida laughed while Elinor just gave Toothless a weird look as he swallowed the fish whole. Merida got her bow and arrows from their little camp and came back out, aiming and shooting a fish that was in the water.

"Breakfast," Merida said, holding the pierced fish up to her mother.

Her mother snuffed and sat on shore. Hiccup stood next to her and she growled, making him take a couple steps to the right.

"C'mon ye guys!" Merida whooped, watching the water for any more fish to catch.

"Well, I've never been a big fisher so- whoa!" Hiccup exclaimed as Toothless pulled him into the river.

"C'mon Mum," Merida said, pushing her mother into the water, "I'll teach ye."

They got to the middle of the river.

"So ye watch fer fish and when ye see one, ye grab it as fast as ye can," Merida said, demonstrating and grabbing one, "Now ye try."

Elinor decided to try and when she tried, she got hit in the face with a fish's tail.

"Maybe Toothless can help ye," Merida laughed.

They looked over and saw the dragon catching fish after fish and the Viking boy using his knife tied to the end of a stick. Elinor snuffed at the idea and glared at the dragon.

"Mum, I know ye heard a lot of bad tales 'bout dragons when ye were younger but they're different and just protectin' themselves. Hiccup found it out. And Vikings aren't bad either," Merida said, glaring at Elinor until the queen gave in, "Hey Hiccup, how 'bout Toothless helps my mum?"

"Sounds like a great idea," Hiccup said and then whispered in her ear, "Maybe it'll get them to get along."

Merida nodded.

"Now Toothless, can you please teach Elinor to fish?" Hiccup asked and the dragon glared at Hiccup, "C'mon bud, I said please."

Toothless turned around and ignored him.

"I'll scratch you in your favorite spot and give you a week's supply of dragon nip," Hiccup whispered in the dragon's ear and he nodded,

albeit, reluctantly, "Good. Hey Merida, wanna get more fish?"

"Sure, now behave ye two," Merida said teasingly and her and Hiccup walked a little further down the river.

Toothless walked over to a small water fall and Elinor followed. Fish jumped out of the waterfall and Toothless used his jaws to catch one. He showed Elinor and she tried with her jaws but didn't succeed. She tried again and again until she got a really big salmon in her jaws. She internally smiled and she and Toothless continued catching fish happily. Toothless roared and tossed a roasted fish to Elinor. The queen caught it and swallowed it. She tossed one back to Toothless and he caught it and purred happily.

"Do ye think they'll get along?" Merida asked.

"It'll take some time but I think they'll warm up to each other," Hiccup replied.

"Let's have a competition," Merida suggested.

"What type of competition?"

"Whoever can catch five fish first and we have to do it with our bare hands."

"What will the winner get?"

"The winner gets three wishes from the loser and the loser has to eat and swallow one big bite from a raw fish," Merida explained.

"You're on."

"Ready?" Merida asked.

"As I'll ever be."

"Go!"

The two teens raced on in their competition. They tossed their caught fish on shore. Merida had three and Hiccup had two. Merida caught another.

"Hey Hiccup, it looks like ye could use some fishin' lessons!" Merida shouted and smirked.

"Well guess what? I just caught two fish at once!" Hiccup shouted back, tossing two fish onto his pile.

They both needed just one more fish. Merida reached in and snatched up a big one.

"Looks like I win Hiccup," Merida cheered as she held her fish proudly.

The fish wriggled a lot and jumped out of Merida's hands, smacking her in the face and knocking her into the water. Luckily, it landed on shore with the rest of her fish but now Merida was soaked.

"Looks like you're all wet," Hiccup said, holding out his hand to

help her up.

Merida grabbed his hand but then pulled him down into the river, soaking him once again just when he was only slightly damp. Merida laughed and Hiccup splashed her.

"Hey!" Merida exclaimed, still smiling and splashing him back.

This turned into a large water fight and Toothless and Elinor watched from the shore, Toothless eating some of the fish.

"I think we've done enough fishing," Hiccup said, helping Merida up.

"Yeah, next time I'd rather fly than fish."

"That can be arranged."

They walked back to camp and started a fire to cook some fish for a late breakfast.

"Here ye go Hiccup, one large, raw, stinky fish fer ye," Merida said, handing Hiccup the last fish she had caught.

"Thank you milady," Hiccup said sarcastically and slowly took a large bite, nearly puking when he swallowed.

"It's not that bad," Merida said teasingly and sat down near the fire.

"You wanna bite?"

"No, I'll stick with my cooked fish," Merida said, taking a fish for herself away from the fire and sticking his on a stick.

Once the fish were done, they all dug in except for Elinor who tried to use sticks as utensils.

"Mum, like this," Merida said, picking up her own fish and biting into it.

She took away the sticks and Elinor hesitantly bit into the fish. Her pupils grew and she violently ate the fish, scaring Hiccup and Merida and putting Toothless into defense mode in front of the teens.

"Mum?" Merida asked hesitantly.

The bear's pupils shrunk and she shook her head, lowering her ears when she realized what she just did.

"We need to find out what that witch was talking about," Hiccup said and Merida nodded.

They left as soon as they could, further into the Highlands. Elinor kept her distance in case she went all bear again and Toothless was jumpy. That's when a wisp appeared a couple feet away from them.

"A wisp," Merida said excitedly.

Toothless growled at it but Elinor ran right up to it, trying to catch it.

"No, Mum!" Merida exclaimed.

"Toothless, it's ok! It's ok! Calm down bud, it won't hurt us," Hiccup said, soothing Toothless.

"Mum, they'll lead us tae the answer but ye need tae stop chasing them. We'll follow," Merida said, managing to stop her mother from jumping onto the blue little creatures.

They followed the Wisps' trail until they came to some ruins. The area the ruins were in had really thick fog and all the trees had no leaves, making it look like it hadn't had life for a very long time.

"Whoa," Hiccup said, "Do you know what this place was?"

They came to an arch with the symbol of two axes with their handles crossed in the center.

"No, I've never been tae this part of the Highlands before," Merida replied.

More ruins lay behind it.

"Why did the Wisps bring us here?"

"I don't know," Hiccup replied and Toothless was very tense, staring into the fog in case anything jumped out at them.

Merida continued on a path of old stairs and headed for the top of the ruins.

"Are you sure we should be going up there? What if it collapses or there's something in there?" Hiccup asked, warily following Merida up the steps.

The Wisps led us here fer a reason," Merida said, "Whoever they were, they've been gone for a long, long ti-ah!" Merida screamed as she fell through the floor.

"Merida!" Hiccup yelled and kneeled next to the hole.

"Are you alright?" Hiccup asked as Toothless and Elinor made nervous sounds.

"I'm fine ye guys, just fine," Merida said as she looked around the room she had fell into.

She stood up and dusted herself off.

"What's down there?" Hiccup asked.

"It's a, a throne room," Merida said, walking towards the stone thrones, "Hey Mum, ye suppose this could be the kingdom in that story ye were tellin' me? The one with the princes."

"What story?" Hiccup asked.

"I'll tell ye later."

"Ok, but I'm coming in after you."

Hiccup slid into the hole and slid down the pile of rocks.

"Whoa."

Merida saw a stone carving of four people, one of them cut from the rest.

"One, two, three, four."

The one that was cut off had its stone face completely scratched up by some type of animal.

"The oldest."

"What?" Hiccup asked and walked over.

"It's been split, like the tapestry," Merida asked, placing her hand on the stone and freezing up.

"Merida?" Hiccup asked, placing his hand on her shoulder and freezing up too.

They both saw the tapestry of Merida's family cut by a sword and then the stone, cut with an axe and a large man with the head of a bear but the body of a man. They both gasped and backed away.

"The spell, it's happened before," Merida said.

"With that guy?" Hiccup asked and Merida nodded.

Hiccup noticed all the scratch marks on the walls and all the skeletons of the dead men.

"Strength of ten men. Fate be changed, changed his fate. Oh no, the prince became-"

Toothless growled at the scent of another bear and roared. The teens turned around and saw Mor'du on his hind legs.

"Mor'du."

Toothless and Elinor roared at the sight of him. He roared at them and Merida shot an arrow at his neck but it did nothing.

"We need to get out, now!" Hiccup exclaimed.

Hiccup rolled out of the way of the oncoming bear but Merida backed up and tripped on her dress on the stairs. She got up and shot at the bear's face but it broke on contact, doing nothing but making the bear angrier. She ran behind the thrones and he broke right through them. He swiped at her and got her cloak. She ran up the rock pillar next to the entrance and reached for Elinor's paw but couldn't reach. Hiccup threw a rock at Mor'du's head.

"Hey ugly! Over here!" Hiccup yelled, waving his arms wildly.

Mor'du roared at Hiccup and charged. Hiccup ran out of the way into a space between a rock wall and a flat pillar. Mor'du clawed at Hiccup, nearly scratching his back. Hiccup grunted and moved further behind the pillar, squeezing into the small space. Merida jumped from the pillar and managed to grab her mother's paw. Elinor pulled her out and Merida looked back down, seeing Mor'du clawing behind the rock pillar.

'Hiccup has tae be behind there,' Merida thought and looked to Toothless.

"Toothless, shoot at Mor'du."

Toothless and Elinor looked at her like she was a crazy person since Hiccup was still down there and could get hurt.

"He's between a pillar and the wall. He won't get hit," Merida said and Toothless poked his head in, aiming at Mor'du as a blue light filled his mouth.

The plasma blast hit Mor'du in the head and he fell back on the ground with a large thud and didn't get up but he was still breathing. Hiccup rushed out of his safe spot and went up the same way Merida did, managing to grab Toothless' tail when Mor'du started to get up. When Toothless and Hiccup moved out of the way, Mor'du pushed his head out and roared. Elinor pushed on an unstable wall and all the stones fell on Mor'du's head and created a large cloud of dust. Merida was barely able to hold on to her mother's back as they took off and Toothless followed when Hiccup hopped on. They ran as fast as they could but couldn't really see where they were going thanks to the fog that seemed to be everywhere. Merida looked around and thought this area was familiar but then she saw they were running straight towards a rock pillar from the rock circle. Elinor slid and hit the rock and Toothless slid, nearly hitting her. The rock pillar tittered a bit but didn't fall over.

"Merida, you okay?" Hiccup asked and Toothless cooed.

"Yeah, we're fine," Merida said as she got off of Elinor and hugged Hiccup, "We have tae get back tae the castle."

"What? Merida, are you crazy?" Hiccup asked.

"If we don't hurry, Mum will become like Mor'du."

Elinor stared wide eyed at Merida and shook her head.

"A bear. A real bear. Forever!" Merida exclaimed.

Hiccup could tell she was starting to freak out so he grabbed her hand.

"Merida, calm down."

Merida took a deep breathe.

"Ok, but we have tae get back tae the castle and mend the tapestry."

It was nightfall when they reached the edge of the forest. They were all hiding behind a large rock, watching the guards move about on the walls.

"What should we do?" Hiccup asked.

"I'm thinking."

Elinor hung her head and flattened her ears.

"Mum, do ye have a better idea?"

Elinor perked up when an idea came to mind and led the group to a grate below the front bridge. She yanked it off.

"That'll do," Merida said and they all walked inside.

They walked through a long, damp, dark tunnel and then crawled upwards, coming out of the well in the courtyard. They managed to get into the castle and heard loud noises coming from the throne room. The clans were fighting, shooting arrows at each other and using the long tables as shields.

"No more talk! No more traditions! We settle this now!" Lord MacGuffin yelled.

"Yeah, ye're the king! Ye decided which one of our sons yer daughter will marry!" Lord Macintosh yelled.

"None of yer sons are fit tae marry my daughter!"

"Then our alliance is over! This means war!" Lord Dingwall yelled and his whole clan ducked so they wouldn't be hit by a barrage of arrows.

"Yikes, it's bad," Hiccup said on the other side of the door.

"They're gonna murder each other. You've got tae stop them before it's too late," Merida said to her mother.

Elinor motioned her paws at herself in a 'me' gesture and then gestured to the rest of her body.

"I know, I know but how do we get ye through there and up tae the tapestry with the lot of them?" Merida asked.

Elinor made an 'I don't know' sound and Merida groaned, rubbing her hands down her face.

"Wait, you can," Hiccup said.

"What? Me?" Merida asked.

"Yeah. Your mom can guide you through a speech to calm them all down and to get along so she can sneak by and Toothless will stay out here. I'll go with her," Hiccup said, grabbing one of her hands and gently squeezing it.

"Ok."

Merida walked into the chaos in the throne room and everyone stopped as she walked to the center, the same way her mom walked into a room.

"What're ye doin' lass?" Fergus asked her.

"It's alright Dad," Merida said, clearing her throat, and standing up straight, "I, um, I have, well, you see, I, I have been in conference with the queen."

"Is that so?" Lord Dingwall questioned, climbing over the table barrier.

"Aye, it is," Merida said.

"Well, where is she then?" Lord MacGuffin asked, sliding a table out of the way.

"She uh-"

"Well, how do we know this isn't some trick?" Lord Macintosh questioned.

"Never!" Merida said angrily.

The lords began to badger her, coming closer and closer until Merida couldn't take it anymore.

"Shut it!" Merida nearly screamed and the whole room went into silence.

She had even managed to scare Fergus' hunting dogs and make him chuckle.

"Remind me not to get on her bad side," Hiccup whispered to Elinor and she nodded.

"Well, I uhâ€¦"

She saw her mother and Hiccup sneaking behind the crowd and her mother made the motion to keep going. Lord Macintosh looked back and Elinor froze like the other bear statues in the room and Hiccup hid behind her.

"Once, there was an ancient kingdom."

"What is this?" Lord MacGuffin asked angrily.

"That kingdom fell into war and chaos and ruin."

"Ah, we've all heard that tale," Lord Macintosh complained, "Lost kingdom."

"Aye but it's true," Merida said and the crowd groaned, "I know now how one selfish act can turn the face of a kingdom."

"Bah, it's just a legend."

"Legends are lessons," Merida said, "They ring with truths."

Elinor paused in her sneaking when she heard her daughter, the one who usually never paid attention in class, repeating one of her lessons.

"Our kingdom is young. Our stories are not yet legends but in them, our bond was struck. Our clans were once enemies but when invaders threatened us from the sea, ye joined together to defend our lives."

Elinor felt a certain warm feeling spread its way through her chest. She was proud of her daughter. She looked down at Hiccup and saw him looking at Merida proudly, too. Merida was like her mother in some ways. They were both stubborn and strong but they also could keep peace between the clans.

"Ye fought fer each other. Ye risked everything fer each other. Lord MacGuffin, my dad saved yer life by stoppin' an arrow as ye ran tae Dingwall's aid."

"Aye, and I'll never forget it," Lord MacGuffin said.

"And Lord Macintosh, ye saved my dad when ye charged in on heavy horse and held off the advance. And we all know how Lord Dingwall broke the enemy line."

"With a mighty throw of a spear," Lord Macintosh said, mimicking throwing a spear.

"I was aiming at ye, ye big topsy," Lord Dingwall said and everyone laughed.

"The story of this kingdom is a powerful one. My dad rallied yer forces and ye made him yer king. It was an alliance forged in bravery and friendship and it lives tae this day."

The crowd roared and the pride in Elinor's chest swelled for her daughter.

"But I've been selfish. I tore a great rift in our kingdom. There's no one tae blame but me and I know now that I need tae mend my mistake and mend our bond."

Elinor thought her heart was about to explode. Her daughter loved her and wanted to make things right.

"And so, there is the matter of my betrothal. I was tae marry Hiccup Haddock Horrendous the Third but he is seen as a traitor on our land because he is a Viking."

Hiccup felt instant dread sweep away the pride. Where was she going with this? Merida took a deep breathe.

"I've decided tae do what's right."

Elinor was waving her paws around, trying to get Merida's attention and Hiccup knew she was going to get them in trouble.

"And-"

Elinor finally caught Merida's attention and was shaking her paws saying no.

"Andâ€|"

Elinor made a breaking motion.

"And break," Merida said hesitantly, "Tradition."

Everyone gasped and murmured at the idea. Elinor motioned to herself and made a motion to her head.

"My mother, the queen, feels, uh."

Elinor motioned to her chest, over her heart.

"In her heart that I."

Elinor shook her head and motioned to the whole room.

"That we be free tae."

Elinor pretended to write on her paw.

"Tae write our own story."

Elinor made a following motion with her paws.

"Follow our hearts and find love in our own time," Merida said and smiled at her mom.

Elinor smiled back. Hiccup felt relieved that Merida wasn't going to choose one of the suitors just to make peace between the clans. The lords were crying and trying to hide it but failing miserably.

"That's beautiful," Lord Dingwall said.

"The queen and I put the decision tae ye my lords. Might our young people decide fer themselves who they will love?"

"Well, since ye obviously made up yer minds about this, I have one thing tae say. This is-" Lord Macintosh was interrupted by his son.

"A grand idea! Give us our own say in choosin' our fates."

"What?"

"Aye, why shouldn't we choose?" Dingwall asked.

"She's the princess," Lord Dingwall pointed out.

"I didn't pick her out. It was yer idea," Dingwall said.

"And ye," Lord MacGuffin said, "Ye feel the same way?"

MacGuffin said some gibberish and everyone was confused as to what he

said. Merida looked hopeful and laughed.

"Well, that settles it," Lord MacGuffin said, "Let these lads try and win her heart before they win her hand!"

"I say the wee Dingwall has a fighting chance."

"Aye there, seems fer once we agree. It was my idea in the first place," Lord Macintosh said and everyone laughed.

Elinor accidentally made a sound and froze into place. Hiccup ran behind her to hide as a guard turned around.

"Just like yer mum," Fergus said, placing his hands on her shoulders, "Ye devil."

Merida noticed the guard, kicking and poking her mom who was pretending to be a bear statue.

"Everyone tae the cellar! Let's crack open the king's private reserves tae celebrate!" Merida yelled and the crowd cheered and the guard left Elinor alone.

When everyone left, Merida was so happy, hopping and giggling like a school girl and Elinor relaxed. Elinor placed her paw on Merida's face and then Hiccup came out from behind.

"Hey Toothless, you can come in now!"

The Night Fury quietly came in and stood by Hiccup.

"So, how'd it feel giving a speech in front of that large crowd?" Hiccup asked.

"Nerve rackin' but they're gettin' along now," Merida said with a smirk, "Hey Hiccup I have one wish."

"What is it?"

Merida kissed him right then and there in front of Elinor. Elinor covered her eyes to give them some privacy. They pulled apart and Hiccup hugged her.

"Now let's go get that tapestry."

A/N: And this chapter is done! I hope you lads and lassies enjoyed and I don't own Brave or HTTYD. Brave belongs to Disney and Pixar and HTTYD belongs to Dreamworks. Bye my followers!

18. Chapter 18

**A/N: Sorry that I haven't been updating often but school started about two weeks ago and now I have homework for about three hours every night and two nights a week I have karate for an hour each night. I'll try my best to update as soon as possible and remember to leave a review on what you think of the story so far. **

Chapter 18:

Third Person's P.O.V.

They made their way up the stone steps and to the room where the ripped tapestry hung. Merida reached out and rubbed it in between her fingers.

"Mend the bond," she said quizzically but then brightened up, "Mend the bond. Stitch it up. This'll change ye back. We just need needle and thread."

Merida turned to her mother who walked towards a box. She moved the bowl of apples on top and opened the box but then got distracted by the apples.

"Mum? Mum?" Merida asked, watching as the bear knocked the bowl over with her snout and was sniffing at them.

"Queen Elinor?" Hiccup asked and Toothless became tense.

"Not now, no. Please not now," Merida pleaded, walking towards her mom who began to sniff her.

They all froze when they heard somebody laughing outside in the hall and Elinor growled, but Merida was quick to shush her. Merida, Hiccup, and Toothless yanked at the tapestry since Fergus was heading for her mother's bedroom, and if Merida could last recall, it had been destroyed. Fergus screamed the queen's name and he was racing down the hall, screaming 'Elinor' at the top of his lungs and checking every room. He pushed open the door to the room everyone was in and found Merida, Hiccup, and Toothless pulling on the tapestry and Elinor, who growled at him.

"What?"

"Dad, no, it's not what ye think," Merida said, running over to her father who pushed her behind him and pulled out his sword.

"Merida, get back!"

Merida fell to the floor and Fergus pulled out his sword. Elinor was on her hind legs now, Toothless was growling, and Hiccup raced forward and blocked Fergus' sword.

"No Dad, don't hurt them!" Merida yelled angrily and got to her feet.

"Get out of my way Viking!" Fergus yelled and flung Hiccup against the wall, leaving him unconscious.

Toothless got angry and got closer to Fergus, growling and roaring. Merida was gripping onto her father's arm and Elinor swung, scratching Merida's arm. Fergus instantly was concerned and tried to keep the bear's attention on him. Fergus was hit and knocked into Toothless, knocking the dragon out and Fergus off his feet.

"No, no," Merida pleaded and Elinor almost went after her but then she came back.

The queen saw Hiccup and Toothless unconscious and Fergus just waking up.

"Mum. "

Elinor looked at her daughter and noticed the scratches on her arm. She gestured to herself and her ears lowered.

"It's alright, I'm alright," Merida said, covering the scratches, "It's nothing, it's just a little scratch. Mum!"

Elinor shook her head and left the room but ran into the other lords.

"Bear!" Lord Macintosh screamed.

"Dad!" Merida exclaimed when she saw her father standing again.

"Oh, thank your stars lass, it almost had ya," Fergus said, "Are ye hurt?"

"It's your wife, Elinor!"

"Ye're talkin' nonsense!"

"It's the truth," Merida said, "There was a witch and she gave me a spell. It's not Mor'du!"

"Mor'du or not, I'll avenge yer mother and get rid of the beast and the Viking too," Fergus fumed, pushing past Merida and hoisting the still unconscious Hiccup under his arm and grabbing Toothless' tail with the other., "Guards, I need a cart, chains, and thick leather straps! And I won't risk losin' ye too."

The king closed the door and locked it with a large iron key.

"No! Dad, just listen! You can't!" Merida screamed, "It's yer wife Elinor!"

Fergus ignored her and he and the guards brought Hiccup and the dragon down the stairs.

"Moddie, keep this and don't let her out," Fergus ordered, tossing the key to the maid.

"What about the bear?"

"Just stay put."

Merida looked for a way out, grabbing a wooden bench, heaving it over her head, and rammed the door with a battle cry. The only thing it did was break the glass and the bench. She grabbed a fire poker and hit the hinges, creating sparks. The princess stuck the metal rod in between the door and the wall, pushing with all her might but ended up bending it. Merida heard her father talking outside and raced to one of the thin windows, breaking it open with her bent rod. On the front horse was her father and across the saddle bound in chains behind him, was Hiccup, awake and soaked to the bone. The last horse in line had Toothless bound in the cart, struggling to get to his rider.

"Mum!" Merida screamed, reaching out the window, "Hiccup! Toothless!"

No, no."

Her mom, the guy she loved, the first dragon she had ever befriended, all were going to die and she couldn't do anything about it. She curled up right there on the window seat and cried but then stopped, renewed hope coming to mind. Merida finally managed to pull down the tapestry, falling to the floor and getting covered with it.

"Moddie."

Merida got up to the window in the door and bellowed,

"Moddie! I need you! Now!"

That's when three baby bears came waddling out of the shadows.

"Huh, oh no," Merida sighed, "Moddie!"

The maid froze but when she caught sight of the baby bears, she nearly screamed and backed up against a wall, holding the key to her chest. Merida got an annoyed look on her face and looked at her brothers.

"Get the key."

Moddie stuffed the key down the front of her dress. The triplet bears all made different silly faces and the maid took off screaming. Moddie was getting close to the maids' area and ran into some other maids and a wooden pole. She continued running and screaming and when the other maids saw the shadows of the bears, they followed suit.

"Needle and thread, needle and thread, needle and thread," Merida repeated, dragging the tapestry about and tripping on it, "Needle and thread, needle and thread, needle and thread."

Merida dug through the box and pulled out a sharp needle.

"Ah, ya beauty."

Meanwhileâ€¦

Moddie was running through the castle, dodging the bear triplets and finally made it to the maid quarters where she blocked the door with everything in arm's length. She walked further in, jumping at every little thing but stopped when she saw two of the bears on the table. Moddie hurriedly grabbed a frying pan but then realized there were only two. The maid looked up and the third bear dove right down the front of her dress. One bear covered his face and the other pointed excitedly. They hurried back up the stairs and the third bear held it through the little window. Merida was on her knees, trying to align the tapestry but looked up with excitement. They rushed out of the castle and mounted Angus, who galloped into the woods. They all had trouble staying on.

"Steady Hamish!" Merida exclaimed to the one holding the light.

Elinor had just slid into the stone circle in the middle of the

forest, the dogs and hunters still following. She ran to go out the other side but the dogs cut her off and every way she tried to get out, hunters blocked the way with torches and spears. Hunters had Elinor backed up against a rock and ropes were thrown over her to keep her down.

Merida had just finished the last stitch when Angus stopped. There was a Wisp and then a whole trail appeared, leading them to Elinor, Hiccup, and Toothless.

Fergus dismounted his steed, walking towards the downed bear with Hiccup under his arm. He tossed the boy to the ground in front of her and Toothless was pulled over in the cart.

"Tonight, we have two beasts and an enemy! We will kill the beasts first and the enemy shall have a slow and gruesome death!" Fergus bellowed and the crowd roared.

The king pulled out his sword and raised it above the bear's head, ready to perform the death cut. He pulled it down but it was knocked out of his hand by an arrow. Merida jumped off Angus and knocked another arrow, aiming it at her father.

"Get back," Merida ordered, "That's my mother."

"Are ye out of yer mind lass?" Fergus asked.

Merida turned to her mom.

"Mum, are ye hurt?" Merida asked and she grunted 'no', "Hiccup?"

"I think we're good."

Fergus shoved the princess aside and raised his sword again. Merida flipped the guy holding her, took the sword from another, and blocked her father's blow.

"Merida!"

She deflected the sword and cut off a part of his wooden prosthetic, taking him off balance and falling to the ground.

"I will not let ye kill them," Merida said.

The triplets came and attacked their father with love and Fergus was screaming.

"Boys," Merida said sternly.

They stopped and hopped off.

"Boys?" Fergus asked incredulously.

And that was when one of their worst nightmares walked up.

"Mor'du."

"Kill it!" Fergus ordered and they all charged but the large bear easily swatted them away like flies, no matter how many came at

him.

"C'mon!" Fergus yelled, punching it in the face, "I'll take ye with my bare hands!"

But even Fergus was tossed about. Merida shot two arrows at its neck after trying to help Hiccup get out of his chains but Mor'du smacked her bow away and she was flat on her back with the bear above her, roaring in her face.

"Merida!" Hiccup screamed, ripping the leather strip away from Toothless' mouth, "Plasma blast!"

One blast knocked the bear over and Elinor ripped free from the ropes with her bear strength. She tackled Mor'du and they both got on their hind legs, roaring and pushing each other around. Elinor was bashed in the face a few times and Hiccup was trying to find a way to unlock Toothless' restraints. Elinor was thrown against a rock pillar and it was starting to teeter. Mor'du was making his way towards Merida and Hiccup rushed to her aid with a sword but he was swatted away like everyone else. Elinor dragged the bigger bear towards the pillar and continually shoved him against it but he finally got her off, shoving her towards Merida. Mor'du came towards them but then the pillar fell on him. A blue mist formed into the shape of the eldest son. He nodded his head towards Merida as a thanks, turned into a Wisp, and left.

"Merida!" Hiccup yelled, "The sunrise!"

"The second sunrise," Merida whispered and dragged the tapestry over to her mom.

She covered the bear with it like a blanket but nothing was happening. Elinor's pupils changed and Merida knew her mom was gone.

"No, no," Merida sniffled, "I don't understand."

Merida tried to speak but she instead started to cry and knelt down in front of the bear.

"No," Hiccup said and Toothless whined, lowering his ears, "This can't be."

Hiccup knelt down next to her but didn't know what to do.

"Oh Mum, I'm so sorry," Merida sobbed, "This is all my fault. I did this to you, to us."

The bear rubbed her nose on her forehead and Merida hugged her, crying even harder.

"You've always been there for me. You've never given up on me. I just want you back," Merida sobbed, burying her face into the soft dark fur.

Hiccup had begun to cry a few tears and the other men lowered their heads in mourning.

"I want you back Mummy," Merida cried, "I love you."

Sunlight slowly expanded over the ground and over Merida and her mother and then the princess felt a human hand run itself through her hair. She stopped crying and looked up, seeing her mother's smiling face.

"Mum, ye're back!" Merida exclaimed and Elinor laughed, kissing her daughter everywhere on her face, "ye changed."

"Oh darlin', we both have," Elinor said and kissed her on the forehead.

"Elinor!" Fergus cheered, doing a limp/run towards his wife and finishing it off with a roll before bringing the two into a group hug.

They touched foreheads and then he dipped her into a kiss, which Toothless, Hiccup, and Merida weird faces at. Merida hugged her father and then Merida noticed that her mom had no other clothes except for the tapestry.

"Oh, Mum," Merida whispered and motioned to the tapestry.

"Oh, and dear," Elinor whispered to Fergus.

"Eh?"

"I'm naked, naked as a wee baby," Elinor said and Fergus stared, "Don't just stare at me, do something."

When Hiccup and Toothless noticed, they covered their eyes and Fergus covered his wife with his hands.

"Cover yer eyes lads, show some respect," Fergus demanded to the lords who were quick to turn away.

Three little naked brothers came running past.

"Now that's what I call a wee naked baby," Fergus said, throwing one of his sons into the air.

Merida stood up and walked over to Hiccup, who had managed to finally get the restraints off of Toothless. The dragon stretched his wings and stepped off the cart, rubbing up against the princess like a cat.

"Feelin' better?" Merida asked, rubbing the dragon in between his ears, making him purr.

"Everything's good now that your Mom's back to normal?" Hiccup asked.

"Everythin' should go back to normal."

"So now I can kiss you?"

"I think so."

Hiccup stepped closer, wrapped his arms around her waist, and touched foreheads with her. Then he kissed her, soft and sweet. Fergus saw it

and glared at the Viking but Elinor stopped him.

"You must remember that he helped and he's not that bad. When I was a bear and he was with us, I didn't trust him at first but I got tae know him more. He's smart, nice, never gives up, and he loves our daughter with all his heart. You may think Vikings are all the same but give them a chance, he may surprise you," Elinor whispered.

Fergus saw the love in his daughter's eyes and he decided he would go with what ever made her happy. The dragon made him a bit wary as he walked over to the couple but it didn't growl at him, only watched him.

"Hiccup," Fergus stated.

"King Fergus," Hiccup said, pulling away a bit from Merida but held onto her hand.

"I wanted tae apologize fer almost killin' ye earlier and I decided tae give ye a chance tae be with my daughter," Fergus apologized.

"It's okay King Fergus, you were only doing what you thought was right," Hiccup said, "and thank you for letting me be with Merida. I will always love her with all my heart."

Merida blushed slightly.

"And just call me Fergus lad," Fergus said, "No need tae get all formal with me."

Fergus gave Hiccup a manly hug, nearly breaking Hiccup's rib cage, and everyone cheered, getting ready to head back. Hiccup was next to a rock pillar when he was grabbed by the neck and lifted into the air. Everyone froze at the sight of Captain Harailt, now pointing a jagged knife at Hiccup's chest.

"Anyone makes a grab fer a weapon, I will stab him," Harailt said, pushing the knife tip closer so it barely broke the skin.

"Put the boy down Harailt," Fergus demanded, "We'll give ye what ye want."

"Well, I was plannin' tae get what I wanted anyway," Harailt explained, "It just makes it less fun that ye're actually goin' along."

"What do ye want?" Merida asked angrily.

"First off, the Night Fury. Put it back in its restraints," Harailt ordered, motioning to the cart with his knife.

"No," Hiccup choked out, kicking uselessly in the air and pulling at Harailt's iron grip.

"Shut up," Harailt said, moving the knife down his chest to his abdomen, pushing hard enough for it to cut.

"No!" Merida screamed and Hiccup grunted, stopping his attempt to get

free.

Blood flowed from the curved line and soaked parts of his shirt. Toothless growled at the man as he chuckled.

"Such fun. Get in the cart Night Fury or the insect gets a nice scar," Harailt joked, moving the knife up to his forehead, "We can match."

Toothless crawled into the cart and Fergus walked over to put on the restraints. All of a sudden, two arrows flew through the air, one hitting the knife out of Harailt's hand, and the other landing right in the crook of Harailt's elbow. Hiccup was dropped and Toothless pounced, pinning Harailt to the ground and growling in his face, baring his teeth. Merida rushed to Hiccup's side and helped him up. Lots of blood had already flowed out and Hiccup was looking pale, which wasn't good. Harailt had chains put on and he was chained to the cart that Toothless had been on. Toothless was whining and nudging Hiccup to help keep him awake.

"Hiccup, keep yer eyes on me," Merida said, helping him onto her horse and into her lap, "Keep looking at my face, right here."

Merida had ripped some clothe off her dress and used it to keep pressure on his wound while Angus charged off back to the castle. There was one guard at the castle who opened the gate and sounded the horn for the maids to be prepared for injured.

"Hiccup, look at me. Don't close those beautiful green eyes," Merida said, jumping off Angus and pulling Hiccup into her arms as she ran as fast as she could.

"I won't," Hiccup slurred.

The maids met her outside and helped carry Hiccup inside. They laid him on a table in a room, took off his shirt, and grabbed rags, a needle, thread, and whiskey. They propped him up and had him drink enough so he wouldn't feel pain when they cleaned and stitched him up.

"Princess, keep him awake fer us. No matter what," Moddie said and Merida nodded, grabbing Hiccup's hand.

"Hiccup, ye may feel some pain but ye have tae stay awake fer me," Merida pleaded, brushing some hair out of his face, "Ye're tough Haddock, I know ye can do it."

"I'll try," Hiccup murmured.

"No, ye'll do it."

"I'll do it."

Merida smiled and then the maids began to clean the wound but Hiccup seemed to be numb enough to not feel a lot of pain. Something loud came racing up the stairs and in came Toothless. The maids freaked out at the sight of the dragon and stopped their work.

"Don't stop!" Merida exclaimed, and then looked at the dragon, "Help

me keep him awake."

Toothless nodded and moved closer to his rider, licking his face. The maids continued, albeit a bit wary, but they had finished the cleaning. Moddie, who was the best sewer, started the stitches and Hiccup yelped in pain.

"Keep him still," Moddie ordered.

The two other maids held his other arm, Merida grabbed the rest of his arm, and Toothless laid out across his lower body. As Moddie continued, the more Hiccup tried to squirm and pull away.

"Hurts," Hiccup whispered.

"I know but it'll be over soon, just stay awake," Merida said, moving some hair out of his eyes.

Hiccup was sweaty and tired. All he wanted to do was close his eyes and drift off into peace.

'_No, you have to, have to stay awake for, for Merida and Toothless,' _Hiccup told himself, looking into Merida's blue eyes, "Such pretty eyes."

Merida smiled and caressed Hiccup's face. One maid handed her a wet cloth for his face and Merida dabbed the sweat away. Elinor and Fergus came rushing into the room.

"How's he doin'?" Elinor asked, coming closer.

"Tired and feelin' some pain but he's fine. I'm surprised the boy's still awake," Moddie answered, "He's a fighter."

"Hi," Hiccup muttered, "Queen Elinor."

"Hello Hiccup," Elinor said, "Is there anythin' I could do?"

"We're all good here," one maid said, "Moddie's almost done."

"Actually, I just finished," Moddie said, tying off a knot, "Get him some water and then he can rest."

"Just a little longer Hiccup," Merida said, squeezing his hand.

Toothless cooed and licked Hiccup's face, making him grimace from the drool and Merida and Elinor laugh. Fergus watched from the door, not really sure whether to join in or not. A maid brought him a cup of water and Merida helped support him so he could drink it and then they helped him off the table.

"He can stay in one of the extra bedrooms," Elinor said, supporting Hiccup on one side.

The whiskey had really affected Hiccup's ability to walk and left him stumbling.

"I'll carry him there," Fergus offered, lifting the boy into his

arms.

"Thanks Dad," Merida said, starting to feel the after effects of her adrenaline rush.

"Let's get ye bandaged up too Princess," Moddie said, motioning to the scratch on her arm.

"I can do that Moddie. You and the other maids get cleaned up in here and help anyone else who is wounded," Elinor said and the maids left.

Merida sat on the table as her mom cleaned and bandaged the wound.

"Ye don't have tae Mum," Merida said, "I've bandaged enough wounds tae do it on my own."

"But this makes me feel better. It was my fault anyway," Elinor said, finishing off the bandage.

"No, it was my fault fer turnin' ye into a bear," Merida said.

"I fergive you," Elinor said.

"Thanks Mum," Merida said, hugging her mom.

With Fergus and Hiccupâ€¦

Hiccup was still awake when Fergus was carrying him to the bedroom and Toothless was following close behind. Now that Fergus was getting used to the dragon, he was actually pretty comforting. Since Fergus was left to his thoughts, there was one thing he was still thinking about. Hiccup's people. Hiccup had never mentioned anything about his actual family since this whole thing. Did his father and mother even know he was here? The last time Fergus saw Stoick was last year's trade meeting and he had only met Valka once many years ago when Hiccup was a wee baby.

"Hiccup?" Fergus asked.

"Yeah Fergus?"

"Do yer parents even know ye're here?"

He noticed Hiccup tense and he had a feeling the answer was 'no'.

"My dad would be angry if he found out I was here."

"Because ye're datin' my daughter?"

"And because of Toothless. He wouldn't listen if I tried to explain that dragons are different," Hiccup explained, "I don't want to lose either of them."

"What about yer mum?"

Hiccup didn't answer immediately and a sad look came to his face.

"She's gone. She was taken away in a dragon raid when I was a baby," Hiccup explained.

Fergus regretted asking the question and felt pity for the boy. They finally reached the room where Hiccup would rest and Fergus laid him on the bed under the blanket. He reached the door and stopped, turning back to Hiccup.

"Ye know Hiccup, ye can always stay with us."

"Thanks Fergus," Hiccup yawned and his eyes drooped closed.

Fergus watched as the Night Fury, a dragon said to be dangerous, curled up by the boy's feet and watched him sleep. Fergus closed the door and walked down the stairs to the throne room where almost everyone had gathered.

"How's he doin' Fergus?" Lord Dingwall asked.

"He's sleeping now. His wound's been cleaned and stitched," Fergus answered, "Harailt under watch?"

"Chained and put intae the strongest cell with two guards on constant watch," Lord MacGuffin reported, "Also, Acair's body was found in one of the cells and is bein' wrapped at this moment."

"When Hiccup wakes, we'll have a hero's funeral fer him. I know Hiccup will want tae be there," Elinor said as she joined the conversation, "Merida's watchin' over Hiccup."

Fergus nodded and a guard came racing in.

"King Fergus, an unconscious in a boat has just come to the dock. We're pretty sure it's a Vikin'," the guard reported.

"Bring him intae one of the injury rooms and lay him on the table and keep a guard at the door. Have a maid check fer injuries," Fergus ordered, "We'll see if Hiccup recognizes him."

**A/N: Who do you think came in the boat? Review on how you think the story is going so far! How to Train Your Dragon belongs to DreamWorks and Cressida Cowell and Brave belongs to Pixar and Disney. **

19. Chapter 19

A/N: Hello my lovely readers! I finally have time to write another chapter but only because I'm sick. At least I can get another chapter done for you since it's been a while. Enjoy this chapter!

Chapter 19:

Third Person's P.O.V.

It was the next morning when Hiccup finally woke up. Toothless was still curled up at his feet and Merida was asleep, her head lying on the mattress and his hand grasped in hers. There was a deep pain running from the boy's chest to his abdomen and all Hiccup could remember was bits and pieces. Harailt running the blade down his

chest, pain, Merida telling him to stay awake, Toothless licking his face, maids rushing about, Merida's pretty blue eyes. There was also the conversation with Fergus, the king telling him he could stay if he needed to. Hiccup knew if he returned to Berk, it would only bring disaster and heart break so staying here for the rest of his life sounded nice. Toothless was awake now, cooing. Merida stirred and Hiccup shushed the dragon. Toothless snuffed and got off the bed, being careful not to wake the red head. Moddie slipped into the room, bringing in a tray of cleaning supplies.

"Hello Hiccup," Moddie greeted, placing the tray on the bedside table.

"Hi Moddie," Hiccup whispered.

"I just came to check yer wounds," Moddie said, gently shaking Merida's shoulder, "Princess, time to wake up."

"Five more minutes," Merida mumbled sleepily, burying her face a bit more into the mattress.

"I've got tae check Hiccup's wounds Princess," Moddie explained, hoping that would get her up faster.

It did. Merida was quick to rise from the chair she was sitting on and move to the head of the bed. They helped Hiccup sit up and Moddie removed the shirt they gave him. She put a bit of whiskey on a clean rag and gently dabbed the wound. It made Hiccup wince and Toothless whined.

"It's okay bud, she's helping," Hiccup explained, placing his hand on the dragon's snout.

"Breakfast will be ready soon. Do ye think ye can make it down there or do ye want tae eat in bed?" Moddie asked, handing Hiccup a cup of water.

"I think I can get down there," Hiccup said, taking a couple sips from the cup.

"Good, the king and queen want tae talk tae ye about somethin' important," Moddie said, grabbing the tray and heading out the door.

"What do you think they want to talk about?" Hiccup asked, sitting up a bit more and swinging his legs over the side of the bed.

"I don't know," Merida admitted, watching as Hiccup stood from the bed.

Hiccup was a bit wobbly on his feet and everything that was bright hurt his eyes a bit, but they made it down to the dining room.

"Good morning Hiccup," Elinor greeted, sitting down at the head of the table.

"Morning Elinor," Hiccup greeted back, waving a little.

"How's that wound treatin' ye?" Fergus asked.

"It hurts," Hiccup said simply.

A guard brought in a chair and placed it next to Merida's. Hiccup sat down and two more guards brought in a large metal dish full of fish. Toothless perked up at the sight and ran right up to them. The guards were instantly on edge and they placed the dish down. Toothless dove right in, swallowing and chewing fish and maids brought out plates of pastries, fruit, and smoked ham. The food was a lot tastier than the food on Berk, except for the Snoggletog food, and Hiccup wanted to learn how to make some of the pastries. When breakfast was over, the maids cleaned the table and Fergus cleared his throat.

"Hiccup, a man came in a boat yesterday, unconscious, and we think he's a Vikin'," Fergus said, "We wanted ye tae see if ye could identify him fer us."

"Okay," Hiccup said, unease slowly seeping in.

He was led to one of the injury rooms and Elinor opened the door. There on the medical table was a man Hiccup had known all his life.

"Gobber!" Hiccup nearly shouted and rushed to the sleeping man's side.

The Viking was a bit beat up with a black eye and a couple scratches and he stirred at his name.

"Hiccup?" Gobber asked, not believing it.

"I'm right here Gobber," Hiccup said and his eyes opened, squinting at the light, "What happened?"

"Yer uncle Spitelout and a few others didn't believe me when I told the village that the Night Fury had flown off with ya," Gobber said, "Him and a few others attacked me while I was workin' in the forge one night and now I'm here."

"Well, that seems to be the Viking way," Hiccup said and Gobber sat up.

"So where am I exactly?" Gobber asked.

"In the Scottish Highlands," Merida explained and gave Gobber a hug.

"Oh Merida, I didn't know I'd be seein' you again," Gobber said and hugged her back.

"Mum, Dad, this is Gobber," Merida said.

"He's an old friend and he helped us off Berk," Hiccup explained.

"It is nice tae meet you," Elinor said.

"So you're Merida's parents," Gobber said, "It is also great tae meet you too."

Gobber stood from the table and gave Hiccup a hug.

"Hiccup, yer father needs ya," Gobber said.

"What?" Hiccup asked, "Why? I thought he would be better off without me?"

"Hiccup, Stoick was only bein' hard on ya because he hoped it would make ya a strong Viking and that you would eventually follow orders so he wouldn't lose you," Gobber explained, "After what happened tae yer mom, Stoick barely made it by. You were the reason he kept on going and didn't become depressed but now that ye're gone, he doesn't joke around anymore. He isn't happy. All he is now is a chief with no real feelings, a shell. You need tae come back and explain. I know ya can convince him that dragons and the Scots are good."

Hiccup didn't look too convinced.

"Gobber, if I go back, I will lose Merida and Toothless and I can't bare that," Hiccup said, holding Merida's hand.

"But Hiccup-" Gobber started but Hiccup interrupted him.

"Gobber, Dad has always been a chief but when I needed help, when I would get bullied by other people, he was never there to help, to comfort me. He always expected me to be something that I wasn't," Hiccup said.

"I know Hiccup but being a father and a chief isn't easy," Gobber said, "You can't expect him to be both."

"I know what it's like. I'm a king, father, and husband and I can't be all three at one time," Fergus said, "Go to him boy."

Merida squeezed his hand and her and Toothless nodded.

"Alright, I'll go," Hiccup said.

The guards were chatting when Harailt decided to start his act. He groaned and got on his knees, gripping his stomach.

"Harailt?" one guard asked, standing from the chair he was sitting on.

Both of the guards entered the cell and when they were close enough, Harailt banged their heads together, knocking them unconscious. The large man took their weapons, the keys and the royal guard outfit from the largest guard. Once he changed, he locked them in the cell and made his way up to the docks. Guards were packing a ship with some supplies and Fergus, Merida, Hiccup, Toothless, and a man Harailt didn't recognize stood nearby. Harailt walked past them and onto the ship into a room full of supplies. He made himself comfortable in a corner and hid behind a couple of empty barrels. Guards and servants were putting more supplies into a room next door and he could hear everyone climb aboard and feel the ship pull away from the docks. Harailt listened as people talked above him.

"How do ye think yer dad will react?" Merida asked.

"He'll be angry," Hiccup responded.

Something cooed up above and Harailt knew it was the cursed dragon he had been trying to hunt down.

"I know bud, I'm afraid too."

20. Chapter 20

****A/N: Hello my lovely followers! I know it's been a while and I'm truly sorry but I'm on Thanksgiving break so I have some time to add another chapter for you all to read. Please enjoy!****

Chapter 20:

Third Person's P.O.V.

"Alright Hiccup, what would ye propose be the best course of action?" Fergus asked.

"I say we anchor the boat here so we can sail into Berk's port in the morning to show we come in peace. Keep at least one guard on watch and switch every couple of hours just in case somebody comes on boat and we're not ambushed," Hiccup explained.

"Sounds good to me," King Fergus said and pointed to a guard, "McKowsky, ye're on first watch!"

"Yes my lord."

The three other guards slept on deck while everyone got a room down below. Merida and Hiccup shared a room and Toothless slept outside the door in the hallway, extremely wary since they were so close to Berk.

"What are ye gonna say tae yer dad?" Merida asked.

"I don't know," Hiccup sighed, falling back on the bed, "He'll yell at me for about ten minutes and then Gobber will try to calm him down and hopefully, I'll be able to convince him that dragons and Scots aren't bad," Hiccup said.

Merida crawled on top of him and began to kiss his neck, causing him to moan a little.

"Merida *moan*, what are you doing?" Hiccup asked, gripping her hips.

"Ye look like ye need tae relieve some stress," Merida said in between kisses, moving to his lips.

Hiccup kissed her back. Her hands slowly moved to his shirt and trailed along his abdomen and chest. She was careful of his wound and Hiccup began to unbutton her dress. Clothes were soon spread about the room, leaving the two bare to each other. Hiccup flipped them over so he was on top and left a trail of warm kisses down her neck, all the way to her belly button, and then back up to her lips.

"Ye can Hiccup," Merida said, running her fingers through his soft reddish-brown hair.

"Are you sure?" Hiccup asked, looking into her beautiful blue eyes.

Merida nodded and Hiccup slowly entered. The princess gasped, making Hiccup stop.

"Am I hurting you?"

"No," Merida answered, looking into his mossy eyes, "It feels great."

"You're so beautiful," Hiccup whispered into her ear.

Hiccup continued until he was in completely and rocked a little, causing Merida to moan. The Viking continued the gentle rocking but sped up. Merida gripped his shoulders, keeping their moans quiet so Gobber or Fergus wouldn't hear. They reached the peek and Hiccup pulled out, releasing into a cloth on the small table next to the bed. He crawled under the covers next to Merida and wrapped his arms around her, nuzzling into her neck. She turned towards him, placing her hand on his cheek.

"That was wonderful," Merida whispered, smiling at him.

"It was," Hiccup said, "I love you."

"I love ye too," Merida said back, snuggling into his chest and closed her eyes.

The next morning, Fergus knocked on the door to their room.

"Time tae get up Hiccup!" Fergus yelled and knocked on the door across the hall, "Time tae get up Merida!"

They listened as the king left to the deck and Merida rushed to her room across the hall to get new clothes. Hiccup changed into his clothes and ran into Toothless who was waiting in the hall.

"Morning bud," Hiccup greeted and Toothless gave him a look, "Yes, we did it now stop giving me that look."

A faint blush spread across his cheeks and the Night Fury laughed. Merida came out in a new dress and walked with Hiccup, hand in hand, up to the deck. They ate some bread and cheese and then watched as they came closer and closer to Berk. The boat floated into the port and Spitelout and another Viking came over.

"We would like tae talk tae Stoick," Fergus said.

"We'll escort ya there," the second Viking said, "But leave yer guards here."

"Alright," the king said, "Guards, stay here."

"Gobber," Spitelout nearly growled.

"Spitelout," Gobber spit back.

They were led to the Great Hall where Stoick was apparently having a meeting and the Vikings walked in. Stoick turned and glared when his

eyes landed on the group.

"What is it Spitelout?" Stoick grumbled.

"King Fergus says he wants to talk," Spitelout answered.

"Well, it's goin' tae be more of yer son talkin'," the king said.

"He is not my son," Stoick said and Hiccup felt part of his heart break.

Merida gripped his hand tighter and he stepped forward.

"I may not be your son anymore but I'm asking you to listen," Hiccup pleaded.

"How can I?" Stoick asked, "That whole time I thought you were learnin' how to kill dragons, you were trainin' one instead and keepin' a Scot on the island!"

Stoick took a second to breathe and looked around the room.

"Everyone but Hiccup, leave. Spitelout, watch them," Stoick ordered and Spitelout nodded.

Toothless growled when Spitelout tried to get him to leave.

"It's okay bud, just wait outside," Hiccup said and Toothless reluctantly left.

"Why Hiccup?" Stoick asked, "So everything in the ring was a lie?"

"Yes Dad but-"

"Did Gobber help you?" Stoick interrupted.

"He did because he realized that dragons and the Scottish are not bad. You need to realize and stop being bull-headed. I can show you-" Hiccup was interrupted again.

"Dragons and Scots have killed hundreds of us!" Stoick yelled.

"But we've killed thousands of dragons and Scots! They defend themselves, that's all!" Hiccup yelled back, "Dragons raid us because they have to! If they don't bring enough food back, they'll be eaten themselves. There's something else on their island Dad. And the Scottish, they're like us, they have to defend their land and I know the story but-"

"Their island? So you've been to the nest?" Stoick whispered, getting closer to Hiccup and Hiccup's eyes widened.

"Did I say nest?" Hiccup nervously asked.

"How did you find it?"

"No, I didn't, Toothless did. Only a dragon can find the island,"

Hiccup explained and he saw the idea form in his father's head, "No, no, no, Dad, no. Please, it's not what you think. You don't know what you're up against. It's like nothing you've ever seen."

Stoick easily shoved Hiccup aside and headed for the large double doors.

"Dad please, I promise you, you can't win this one. Dad, no."

Hiccup ran up to his father and yelled,

"For once in your life, would you please just listen to me?"

He grabbed Stoick's large arm but the chief just elbowed him off, knocking him to the floor.

"You've thrown your lot in with them. You're not a Viking, you're not my son," Stoick said, grabbing him by the back of his shirt collar and dragged him out the doors.

"Stoick, what are ye doin'?" Fergus asked when they saw Hiccup dragged out of the Great Hall.

"Get off the island and go back home before I have it done personally. Spitelout, lock up Hiccup and don't let anyone talk to him," Stoick ordered and tossed the boy to his uncle.

"Hiccup!" Merida yelled and Toothless growled.

"Lock up the Night Fury and ready the ships," Stoick ordered and a group of Vikings rushed towards the ebony dragon.

"No!" Fergus yelled, blocking two of them and Merida blocked another but five more rushed past and secured the dragon.

"Stoick, you don't want to do this," Gobber said.

"Get back to the shop before I have you locked up too," Stoick growled, "Leave before I slice the dragon's head off."

They reluctantly went back to their ship. Merida felt heartbroken but she had a plan. When they were back on board and out to sea, Merida told her father and the guards her plan.

Hiccup was handcuffed and thrown into a dark cell where he could barely see and smelled of rotten meat. His father was sailing himself and his people to certain death with his best friend, and his girlfriend had to leave the island. He wished he had never come back to Berk and had stayed at DunBroch. Him and Merida could live together, get married and have kids when they were old enough, Gobber could help Oliphant in the smithy, and Toothless would be there by his side and sleep on his feet every night and sometimes give him a regurgitated half eaten fish. Hiccup felt a couple tears slip down his cheeks but he wiped them away.

'They'll find a way to save Toothless,' Hiccup thought, 'Can't give up hope.'

Hiccup curled into a ball. Stoick's words bounced about in his head and made his heart break again.

'You're not a Viking, you're not my son'.'

He thought of the way his father had been so cold hearted, even towards Gobber. He had never been that way towards Gobber since they'd been friends since they were little. The darkness, the hurt, must have finally taken over his heart. Gobber did say Hiccup was all Stoick had after his mom died so his betrayal must have pushed him over the edge.

The door opened and light spilled in, causing Hiccup to blink a few times. Gobber stood there with a Viking unconscious at his feet.

"Gobber," Hiccup sighed in relief, standing.

"Let's hurry, the others in your class want to listen to you and to help us stop your father," Gobber explained, unlocking the handcuffs with a key.

"Really?" Hiccup asked, following Gobber.

"Yeah, they saw how dark Stoick had become and Astrid and Fishlegs befriended a couple of the dragons in the arena, which is where we're heading," Gobber answered.

"Astrid befriended a dragon?"

"Yeah, the Deadly Nadder. She caught Fishlegs playing with the Gronckle and tried it with the Nadder."

"That's a bit hard to believe," Hiccup said.

"Well believe it."

They came into the arena where the other teens were waiting. Fishlegs was petting the Gronckle and Astrid was scratching the Nadder behind one of its spikes. Snotlout and the twins were on the other side of the arena, looking a bit nervous because of the dragons.

"Hiccup!" Fishlegs exclaimed.

"Alright guys, listen up. We're gonna have to stop my d-, Stoick, before anyone is killed. Snotlout, Ruff, Tuff, ready to get a dragon?" Hiccup asked.

"Whoa, we get to ride dragons?" Ruffnut asked.

"I did not sign up for this," Snotlout said as Hiccup dragged him near the Monstrous Nightmare that Astrid had just let out.

Hiccup led the big red dragon towards Snotlout and put the boy's hand on the snout. Snotlout laughed and smiled but that smile fell when Hiccup began to walk away.

"Where you goin'?" the bigger boy asked.

"You're gonna need something to help you hold on," Hiccup said, pulling some rope out of the weapons box.

They all mounted their dragons and Hiccup rode with Astrid and Gobber rode with Snotlout. The dragons led them to the island where a large battle was waiting for them.

The Vikings had reached the island and were carving spears and readying the catapults.

"When we crack this mountain open, all hell is going to break loose," Stoick said to Spitelout when he finished drawing up the plan, "No matter how this ends, it ends today."

Stoick raised his hand and then made it into a fist, signaling for the catapults to fire. Boulders flew through the air and smashed open a hole in the mountain side. All the Vikings moved forward slightly, waiting for the dragons to come flying out and attack.

Merida, Fergus, and the four guards waited by the Viking ships, Nobody had noticed when they pulled up to the shore since they were all so focused on the hole. Merida had explained to her father and the guards what was in the volcano and even Fergus shook a little. Merida got on the boat Toothless was on and began undoing the restraints that held him.

Stoick motioned for a lit boulder and one was fired, lighting the tunnel and showing hundreds of dragons. Stoick let out a battle cry and charged. The dragons flew out in one large flock and they didn't hit one.

"Is that it?" Spitelout asked.

"We've done it!" one random Viking asked and they all cheered, except for Stoick, who looked at Toothless, who was now struggling to get out of the restraints with Merida hiding behind him.

"This isn't over! Form your ranks, hold together!" Stoick ordered and the Vikings silenced themselves.

The volcano shook and the stone cracked. A roar shook the land and even the boats moved from the gust of wind. Then, out of the ground came the largest dragon anyone had ever seen.

"Get clear!" Stoick commanded and the Vikings ran, "Odin help us."

The dragon queen roared and shook the rocks off its back.

"Catapults!"

It smashed the catapults like they were flies and all the Vikings headed for the ships.

"Get to the ships!" one said.

"No, no!" Stoick yelled and the boats were toasted by the dragon queen.

Toothless pulled harder at the restraints and Merida had only sliced through a few.

"Dad!" she yelled and Fergus jumped aboard, pulling the wooden ring apart that sat around Toothless' neck.

They got the other restraints off and got off the burning boat. Stoick ordered Spitelout to get his men to the far side of the island and began to distract the dragon.

"I'm gonna help Stoick," Fergus said, "Get tae safety."

"But I can help. I know how tae fly Toothless," Merida said.

"Fine but be careful," Fergus said, running off to help the chief.

"Let's go Toothless," Merida climbed on and placed her foot in the pedal.

The dragon queen was about to shoot at Stoick when the Nadder Hiccup and Astrid were riding shot it in the back of the head, stopping it.

"Ruff, Tuff, watch your backs! Move Fishlegs!" Hiccup ordered and Stoick stared up at them with confusion.

Fishlegs dropped Gobber off with Stoick and Fergus and they left to meet up with Merida and Toothless.

"Merida, Toothless," Hiccup sighed with relief when they landed.

He ran over to them and gave them both a hug.

"Okay Fishlegs, break it down."

"Heavily armored skull and tail made for bashing and crushing. Steer clear of both. Small eyes, large nostrils, relies on hearing and smell," Fishlegs said.

"Okay, Lout, Legs make some noise, keep it confused. Ruff, Tuff, find out if it has a shot limit. Make it mad."

"That's my specialty," Ruff said.

"Since when? Everyone knows I'm more irritating," Tuff argued, "See?"

Tuff flipped upside down and made strange noises.

"Just do what I told you," Hiccup said, "Astrid, also distract it. I'll fly with Merida to see if we can find a weakness and to get the others out of here."

They took off. Toothless flew around, observing the details. Stoick, Fergus, and Gobber were still running around to help distract it. The only problem now was that the dragon was stomping around like mad. One of its feet was going to come down on Stoick.

"Go bud!" Hiccup said and the Night Fury was quick to fly down and pull Stoick out of the way before he was smashed.

He dropped the chief off with his people and Stoick stopped them from

leaving.

"Hiccup, I'm sorry, for, for everything."

"Yeah, me too," Hiccup said.

"You don't have to go up there."

"We're Vikings, it's an occupational hazard."

Stoick grabbed Hiccup's hand.

"I'm proud to call you my son."

He stepped back and nodded.

"Thanks Dad," Hiccup said.

"Keep my son safe," Stoick said to Merida and Toothless.

"We will," Merida said and they took off.

The other dragon riders flew away but when Astrid flew past, the dragon tried to suck her and her own dragon into her mouth. Toothless shot at the Red Death's mouth and the Nadder and Astrid fell. Toothless caught Astrid by her foot.

"Did you get her?" Hiccup asked and Toothless cooed.

They dropped her off with the other Vikings and landed.

"Merida, things are going to get crazy so I need you to stay with the others," Hiccup said.

"What? No, I won't leave ye!" Merida objected.

"Merida, the flying will be too rough for you to hold on and we need as much speed as we can get," Hiccup explained, "Please Merida."

Merida got off the Night Fury and gave him a sweet kiss on the lips.

"Promise me ye'll come back tae me alive," Merida said, "and I love ye."

"I love you too," Hiccup said, "and I will come back alive, I promise."

They took to the sky.

"That thing has wings. Okay, let's see if it can use them," Hiccup said and Toothless dive bombed towards the large dragon.

Toothless shot a plasma blast at the dragon, succeeding in knocking it over. It extended its large wings and flew after Hiccup and Toothless. The two maneuvered through the rock pillars while it just crashed right through them.

"Okay Toothless, time to disappear," Hiccup said, pushing the pedal

so they could go upwards into the cloudy cover, "C'mon bud!"

They managed to lose the Red Death in the cloud cover and shoot plasma blasts at it. The dragon queen eventually got so fed up with being shot that it spewed fire everywhere, lighting Toothless' prosthetic fin on fire. They attracted the dragon's attention and headed back down to the island.

"Stay with me buddy, we're good. Just a little longer," Hiccup assured.

The dragon's mouth opened.

"Hold Toothless."

The Viking boy listened and heard the gas seeping into its mouth.

"Now!"

Toothless flipped over and shot into its mouth, causing its insides to catch fire. When the Red Death saw the island coming into view, it spread its wings out but they were no use because of the gaping holes left there from Toothless' shots. Toothless moved towards the back of the dragon queen, maneuvering through its spines as the fire from the explosion followed them. The prosthetic fin was gone and its tail was coming towards them.

"No, no!" Hiccup exclaimed and then they were hit, knocking him unconscious, and spiraling towards the flames.

Toothless flew towards Hiccup and wrapped around him to protect his rider.

Stoick ran through the ashes, calling for Hiccup, but there was no reply. He saw the Night Fury lying on the ground and rushed towards him. But there was only a torn and burnt saddle and no prosthetic fin. The realization set in that Hiccup was gone, that he was never coming back, like his mom. His heart broke again into tiny little pieces and he fell to his knees.

"Oh son," Stoick shook his head, "I did this."

Merida fought her way to the front of the crowd but when she saw Stoick on his knees and just Toothless laying there, that realization set in, breaking her heart and she couldn't hold back the sobs. She ran up to Toothless, crying. She went down on her knees next to Stoick and wept.

"Why Hiccup? Ye promised ye'd come back alive!" Merida cried, "I want ye back."

Toothless woke up and noticed the pain and sadness on Stoick's and Merida's faces.

"My son, I'm so sorry," Stoick whispered.

Toothless unfolded his wings and there was Hiccup, lying in Toothless' legs.

"Hiccup," Stoick said, grabbing the boy and placing his ear to his chest, "He's alive, you brought him back alive."

The crowd cheered and Merida stopped crying.

"Thank you for saving my son," Stoick said, placing a hand on Toothless' head.

"Thank ye Toothless," Merida said.

"Well, you know, most of him," Gobber said and Stoick looked over to see what he was talking about.

Hiccup's left foot and ankle were missing.

"Quick, let's get him back to Berk to get it taken care of," Stoick said, standing up.

"Stoick, we have to do it here because by the time we get back to Berk, he'll have bled out," Gobber said, "I've done enough amputations or had some done to myself in my lifetime to know how to do one. I need clean clothes, whiskey, and a hot blade to cauterize it."

A couple Vikings went to get what he needed. Merida was walking over to where they were laying him when one of the guards from the boat grabbed her neck and pulled out his sword.

"Let her go!" Fergus yelled, pulling out his sword, and Toothless growled at the man.

The guard pulled off his helmet to show Captain Harailt, sneering.

"Give me the Night Fury or the princess will get it," he ordered, "Now."

Toothless stepped towards the man.

"After all these years, I can finally cut out yer heart and end yer life," Harailt said, raising his sword with one arm.

Suddenly, he froze up and then fell over, blood pooling around his body. There stood Elinor, with a now bloody knife.

"Elinor!" Fergus said, rushing over to hug her, "How did ye get here?"

"I brought some men tae come lookin' fer ye when ye were gone so long," Elinor explained, "I wasn't about tae let that jerk hurt my daughter."

Elinor spotted Hiccup laid out on a flat piece of rock and ran over. She noticed his foot was gone and immediately got to work with Gobber. When they finally cauterized the wound, they headed home on the boats Elinor brought since the others had been burnt to a crisp. Stoick moved his bed down into the living room and rested him on the bed.

"When will he wake up?" Stoick asked Gobber.

"I don't know," Gobber said.

Merida made herself comfortable by his bedside and held his hand.

"Please wake up soon Hiccup," Merida pleaded.

21. Chapter 21

Chapter 21:

Third Person's P.O.V.

It was about a week later when Hiccup woke up. Toothless saw him moving slightly when he was still sleeping and kept making cooing sounds to help bring him out of sleep. Those forest eyes opened and Toothless happily nudged his face.

"Hey Toothless," Hiccup mumbled since he still wasn't fully awake yet, "Happy to see you too bud."

Toothless ended up stepping on his stomach which caused Hiccup to yell in pain and sit up. That was when he realized he was in his house.

"Uh, I'm in my house. Uh, you're in my house," Hiccup pointed out and Toothless happily ran about the living room and knocked many things over, "Does my dad know you're here? Uh, what? Okay, okay."

Toothless jumped up onto a beam.

"Toothless, no, no Toothless. Toothless," Hiccup finally managed to attract the dragon's attention when he began to get out of the bed, "Aw come on-"

Hiccup stopped and lifted up the blanket, a look of sadness on his face. Toothless jumped down and made cooing noises. Hiccup sighed and put his foot on the floor. His left foot, ankle, and about half of his calf were gone and replaced with a wood and metal prosthetic. The Night Fury sniffed the new object and looked at his rider who was in shock. He tried to form words but nothing could come out. He took in a deep breath and used the end of the bed as support. He took one small step, which hurt, and looked to Toothless. The boy took another breath but fell from the pain. Toothless caught him with his head and decided it would be better if he just supported Hiccup to the door.

"Okay," Hiccup whispered to himself, "Thanks bud."

Hiccup pulled open the heavy wooden door but immediately closed it when a Monstrous Nightmare roared right outside.

"Toothless stay here," Hiccup pulled the door open again.

"C'mon guys, let's get ready," Snotlout shouted from the back of the Nightmare and Vikings learning how to ride dragons followed.

Hiccup looked around in amazement. Dragons were all over the island and not being killed or killing.

"I knew it, I'm dead," Hiccup concluded.

Stoick laughed and placed a hand on his son's shoulder.

"No, but you gave it your best shot. So, what do ya think?"

"Hey look, it's Hiccup!" one Viking yelled and everyone cheered.

A small crowd came towards him and in the crowd, Hiccup noticed some people from DunBroch too.

"Elinor, Fergus, the triplets, Oliphant, Lara**(the clothes maker)** you're all here," Hiccup said and hugged them all.

"Just signed a peace treaty with your father," Fergus said.

"Turns out, all we needed was a little more of this," Stoick gestured to Hiccup.

"You just gestured to all of me," Hiccup pointed out and Stoick smiled.

"Well, most of you. That bit's my handiwork with a little Hiccup flare thrown in. Think it'll do?" Gobber asked.

"I might make a few tweaks," Hiccup said and the crowd laughed.

Hiccup's eyes were covered with two hands.

"Guess who?"

"Well, let's see, Scottish accent, hands with few calluses but still soft, I'm gonna guess Merida," Hiccup said and turned around to come face to face with his girlfriend who punched him hard in the arm, "Ow!"

"Don't scare me like that again!" Merida exclaimed but then kissed him, long and sweet.

Gobber handed Hiccup his new saddle, fin, and adjusted maneuvering petal.

"Welcome home."

"Night Fury! Get down!"

Toothless jumped out of Hiccup's house and knocked almost everyone over in his attempt to get to his rider.

"Wanna test out the new gear?" Hiccup asked Merida.

"I'd be delighted."

Hiccup set it all up and helped Merida on before they took off. They met up with the other teens and flew around Berk. Toothless was still the fastest out of all the dragons and was in absolute bliss with his

rider back and they could fly together again. It was late afternoon when they landed and found Merida's family at the docks.

"We have to go back home Merida," Elinor said, a look of sadness on her face.

"I understand Mum," Merida said and turned to Hiccup, "I'll visit here and you have tae visit DunBroch as often as ye can. Ye have tae promise."

"I promise. Do you promise?"

"I promise."

They hugged for a few minutes and they waved until Merida's boat was out of sight. Hiccup and Toothless were sad the princess had left but they'd visit as soon as the people of Berk could handle dragons without Hiccup's help.

22. Chapter 22

Chapter 22: Snoggletog!

Five years later (after Stoick's death)â€¦

Third Person's P.O.V.

Hiccup slowly opened his eyes and rubbed the sleep away. Then his eyes widened in realization and he sat up quickly.

"Merida and Adelaide are coming today!"

He threw off his blanket and nearly ran out of the house shirtless and with bedhead but his mother stopped him.

"I think you're forgetting something," Valka said and Hiccup noticed he forgot a shirt and to fix his hair.

"Thanks Mom," Hiccup ran back up the stairs and threw on a shirt and ran a comb through his hair before running out of the house.

Vikings were already busy at work preparing for Snoggletog. Nadders were using their spikes to nail shields on the tree in the center of the village, young Vikings and dragons were playing in the snow, and the Hangar had been turned into a new nesting place when Hiccup found out how to make make-shift hot springs in the center so now the dragons didn't have to leave. Toothless greeted Hiccup before he had to head to the Great Hall and discuss what was left to do today for Snoggletog. His wife and daughter were coming today to spend the holidays with him. That's right, wife and daughter. The day Hiccup and Toothless destroyed the Red Death was the day little Adelaide was created. When their parents found out Merida was pregnant, they were a bit angry but also very happy and the two were married right away on DunBroch. Adelaide was born eight months later, a month early, and was very small. When Stoick first saw her, he said that was how small Hiccup was when he was first born. Hiccup pushed open one of the doors to the Great Hall and met Gobber at one of the tables.

"Morning Hiccup," Gobber waved.

"Good morning Gobber," Hiccup sat next to the older man on the bench.

"I can tell you're excited."

"It's been a month since I last saw them," Hiccup pointed out, "What's left to do?"

"Snotlout and Fishlegs are decorating in here now which was one of the last major things. Astrid was thinking of decorating the Hangar for the dragons," Gobber explained.

"That sounds like a great idea," Hiccup said, "Let's just hope the dragons won't try to eat the decorations."

Toothless was eating out of a barrel when he raised his head and ran out the door of the Great Hall.

"Toothless!" Hiccup ran after him.

A boat had pulled into the docks and Hiccup recognized it as a DunBroch boat. A smile appeared on his face when he saw a familiar red head and a small child get off.

"Daddy!" the small five year old girl yelled and ran right into Hiccup's arms.

"Hey Adelaide," Hiccup greeted and rested her on his hip.

She was the perfect combination of Hiccup and Merida with curly hair that was a similar color to Hiccup's but was a bit lighter, freckles across her cheeks, and two different colored eyes, one blue, one green. Gothi had deemed her as a child gifted by the gods because of her different colored eyes. Adelaide was holding the stuffed Night Fury Stoick had gotten her when she was born. Merida ran over and hugged her husband and planted a kiss on his lips.

"Ew," Adelaide scrunched her nose up and her parents laughed.

Toothless nudged Merida's leg and she kneeled down and scratched him under his chin where he liked it. Adelaide clambered onto the Night Fury's back after she was put down.

"Let's go see Grandma, Toothless!" Adelaide exclaimed and Toothless did a slow jog toward the Haddock household.

"She was so happy tae be coming here," Merida grabbed Hiccup's hand as they walked towards Hiccup's house, "but she was a bit sad when she remembered Stoick wasn't here."

"We all are," Hiccup looked at the statue of his late father in front of the Great Hall, "My mom will be happy to see you again."

"I think she's more excited tae see Adelaide," Merida chuckled.

"I think she's just excited that she's a grandparent."

Hiccup pushed open the door to his house and saw Valka conversing with his daughter.

"Hi Daddy, hi Mommy" Adelaide waved and walked over to him with her arms up.

Hiccup picked her up and rested her against his hip again.

"I see Adelaide found you," Hiccup chuckled.

"Yeah, we were talking about making cookies for the party tonight," Valka smiled and hugged Merida, "Hello Merida, it is good to see you."

"It's good tae see ye too," Merida said and hugged back, "Was Adelaide wantin' tae make vanilla cookies?"

"Yes she was. She told me they're her favorite," Valka answered, "How's your speech going Hiccup?"

"It sounds good and I have most of it memorized but I may collapse in front of everyone from stage fright," Hiccup rubbed the back of his neck.

"Ye'll be fine," Merida smiled and pecked his cheek.

"Daddy's gonna do a speech?" Adelaide asked and looked at her father.

"Yeah."

"Can I do one?" the little girl asked.

Hiccup couldn't resist those big eyes, but then again no one on the island could.

"Sure."

"Yay!" Adelaide yelled and kissed Hiccup on the cheek, "Thank ye Daddy."

"You're welcome," he said, "How about you go make those vanilla cookies with Grandma Valka?"

"Okay," Adelaide said and Valka followed her to the kitchen.

"I should see the progress in the village and then practice my speech," Hiccup said, "You can take care of her while we're gone?"

"Of course," Valka said.

"Shall we go milady?" Hiccup asked as he did a slight mock bow.

"We shall," Merida smiled and they walked out the door.

Toothless followed the two but eventually headed back to the house to see if Adelaide could sneak him any of the cookies.

"Decorations are up in the Hall and the Hangar, the tree is finished,

there are lots of dragons making nests in the Hangar and the hot springs are at the correct temperature," Hiccup listed, "The bakers are making the food and mead, the fish basins for the dragons are full, and all of the dragon safety protocols are up and running in case a dragon sets a house on fire."

"Berk seems tae be in an organized and workin' manner," Merida stated.

"Things like building and fishing have been increased greatly since the dragons are helping," Hiccup said, "And we've got so many Vikings wanting to learn how to train dragons."

"That's great," Merida said, "Let's go practice yer speech."

They got back to the house. Toothless was secretly eating cookies that Adelaide was giving him without Valka noticing and it made the two adults laugh.

"We'll be in my room practicing my speech," Hiccup stated and led Merida up the stairs.

Hiccup picked a piece of paper up off of his desk and cleared his throat.

"Happy Snoggletog to all of you. It is currently our fifth year with the dragons as friends on Berk and it has been amazing. Sure, there were a few bumps in the road but we got through it and Berk is still here. Being a chief for this tribe is a great honor but I want to honor my father, Stoick the Vast, for his service as the former chief. *moment of silence*. Stoick and I also had a few bumps in the road but it happens with all families. It's what brings you closer together. Like this village, sometimes we get into arguments or something happens but we get through it and we become closer, like a family. Now let's celebrate this Snoggletog as a family."

"That's wonderful Hiccup," Merida hugged him and they turned when they heard clapping in the corner.

Valka, Adelaide, and Toothless were waiting at the top of the stairs. Hiccup blushed like mad from the attention and placed the speech on the desk.

"I like it," Adelaide smiled and gave Merida and Hiccup each a cookie, "We had extras."

"It's almost dragon hatching time," Hiccup commented and picked Adelaide up, "Wanna go see some baby dragons?"

Adelaide nodded happily and they all headed for the Hangar. Many dragons were pushing their eggs toward the pools of hot water. Adelaide wanted to get super close to the pools but Hiccup wouldn't allow it and told her the eggs explode and that she could get injured. After a few minutes, lots of colorful baby dragons were crawling everywhere. Adelaide chased many of them and Toothless was trying not to be chewed on by the Scuttleclaw babies that seemed strangely attracted to him.

"Hey Daddy, how come Toothless doesn't have any babies?" Adelaide asked, "Ye said a lot of dragons come here."

"Well, there's no mommy Night Fury," Hiccup kneeled in front of the small child.

"Can't he just have them on his own?"

"Only a mommy dragon can have babies, like how I can't have a baby in me but only Mommy can," Hiccup explained and tried to make it so the conversation wasn't too awkward.

"Oh," Adelaide said, "Can't ye find a mommy Night Fury?"

"We don't think there's any Night Furies left," Hiccup said.

"Where'd they all go?"

"The same place Grandpa went."

"Oh."

Adelaide clutched the stuffed Night Fury close.

"Can I be Toothless' baby?" Adelaide asked, "So he can have a baby tae look after."

"Sure," Hiccup said and ruffled Adelaide's hair.

Adelaide smiled and ran over to Toothless.

"Toothless, I'm gonna be yer baby!" Adelaide laughed and climbed onto Toothless' back.

"She's got a big heart," Merida smiled, "Just like ye."

"Yeah," Hiccup smiled and watched as Toothless played with the child, being careful and gentle of course.

"Party should be starting soon," Valka said, "Shall we head over?"

"Yeah, that would be bad if this tribe's own chief was late," Merida said, "Adelaide, we gotta leave fer the party!"

"Okay, let's go Toothless," Adelaide said and Toothless jogged out with Adelaide on his back.

People and dragons were walking into the Great Hall and chatted with friends, drank mead, ate food, or all three. Hiccup walked towards the center of the room and stopped. Everyone fell silent as he cleared his throat and recited his speech. Everyone was clapping and cheering at the end and Adelaide ran over with a paper in her hands.

"Ready Adelaide?" Hiccup asked and she nodded.

"Happy Snoggletog! I wanted tae say a speech 'cause Daddy was sayin' one. I like Berk 'cause it's full of nice people. Sure, they don't look nice or smell nice but that doesn't matter. There's also dragons which is really cool and I gotta see the babies hatchin' and it was

so cool. I learned Toothless can't have babies 'cause there's no Mommy Night Furies so I said I would be Toothless' baby. I know I'm not a dragon but it doesn't matter. We don't need tae be the same like we all don't need tae be Vikings tae get along. I heard of what it was like before my Mommy and Daddy got together and it seemed sad but then they proved life could be different and happier if we all just got along, even if we weren't the same. So we can be a family, even if we're different," Adelaide finished and the crowd cheered, causing the small child to blush like mad.

"You wrote that yourself?" Hiccup asked and Adelaide nodded, looking at the ground and dug her toe into the stone floor.

Hiccup hugged her and she hugged back.

"You did such a great job Adelaide," Hiccup whispered.

"Would Grandpa be proud?"

"Yes, he would be really proud," Hiccup smiled and Adelaide beamed.

"Ye did a great job my little angel," Merida congratulated and hugged the little brunette.

Toothless licked her whole face.

"Ew Toothless! That's gross!" Adelaide groaned, causing her parents and everyone around them to laugh.

"So smart for such a young age," Valka observed, "I have never seen a child that smart."

"Gothi did say she was gifted by the gods," Hiccup said, watching as Adelaide wiped the drool off with her sleeves and Toothless laughed.

"Adelaide, wanna get some cookies?" Valka asked and her two different eyes widened.

"Yay, cookies!" Adelaide cheered and grabbed her grandmother's hand as they walked towards the table with food.

All through the rest of the party, people congratulated Hiccup on his speech and the two parents for having such an intelligent child. The party was supposed to end soon and Merida and Hiccup were near the back of the Great Hall. Astrid came walking up with something behind her back.

"Hey Merida, hey Hiccup," the blonde said and gave the red head a hug, "I have a gift for you two."

Astrid hung something small and green above the two parents' heads and they looked up. Mistletoe.

"You know the rules," Astrid smiled.

Hiccup dipped Merida and kissed her. It was long, soft, and sweet and also quite enjoyable.

"Gotta love mistletoe," Hiccup whispered in the princess' ear and she chuckled.

"Thanks Astrid," Merida said and the blonde nodded before walking off.

"This has been the best Snoggletog ever," Hiccup said and pulled Merida close.

"I agree," Merida said and they kissed again.

Life was now perfect on Berk.

****A/N:** This is sadly the last chapter of this story but I was thinking that I could do a sequel for this story. Let me know what you guys think and also let me know what you thought of this chapter! I don't own Brave or How to Train Your Dragon, I only own the plot and Adelaide. ******

End
file.